



ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society
September 2009



GI0MPG



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News Bulletins and Readers

| | | | | |
|----------------|------|---------|-----|---|
| Sunday | | | | |
| Dublin | 1100 | 7.043 | SSB | Colm EI3H, Sean EI7CD, Gerry EI8CC, Roland EI4GYB Ger EI4GXB |
| Wicklow | 1130 | 3.680 | SSB | (as Gaeilge) Paddy EI7GK, Danny EI6GS |
| Dublin | 1145 | 145.525 | FM | Tony EI5EM, John EI7JG |
| Dublin | 1200 | 3.650 | SSB | As 1100 |
| Mayo | 2000 | 145.600 | FM | John EI7IQ, Padraic EI9JA, Jimmy EI2GCB |
| Tipperary | 2030 | 145.450 | FM | Tommy EI2IT, John EI2JB, Andy EI5JF |
| Dublin | 2130 | 145.525 | FM | As 1145 |
| Monday | | | | |
| Cork | 2000 | 145.750 | FM | Vincent EI7HN |
| Limerick | 2000 | 145.725 | FM | Brian EI9AL, Tony EI2AW |
| Louth | 2000 | 145.675 | | Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD |
| Galway | 2000 | 145.625 | | Steve EI5DD |
| Tuesday | | | | |
| Waterford | 2130 | 145.650 | FM | Francis EI5GOB |

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Committee Members 2009/10

Elected

| | |
|--------|-----------------|
| EI2HX | Pat Fitzpatrick |
| EI4GK | Sean Donelan |
| EI4GXB | Ger McNamara |
| EI4HH | James Holohan |
| EI4HX | Peter Grant |
| EI6IZ | Brendan Minish |
| EI6JK | Mark Condon |
| EI7GY | Joe Ryan |
| EI8CC | Ger Gervin |
| EI8JB | Charlie Carolan |
| EI9HX | Pat O'Connor |

Co-Opted

| | |
|-------|------------|
| EI7CD | Sean Nolan |
|-------|------------|

**Newsletter input to
ei4bz@eircom.net**

Stolen Equipment

Bernard EI8FDB and Dave EI7BFB SYSOP the EI7BFB-2 APRS digi in Finglas, Dublin.

On Sunday night, 22nd of August at 23:23 the equipment was stolen from the premises where they have the digi.

Taken in the theft were:

1 x Toshiba Satellite laptop with Ubuntu Linux installed
(This operating system is not a default installation on these laptops)

1 x Kantronics KPC-3+

1 x Kenwood TM-251e

1 x Watson 13.8V 20A black dual meter PSU

It was stolen on Sunday the 22nd of this month, at 23:23 (last APRS beacon date stamp).

If anyone sees this or similar being offered, please contact contact Bernard on this e-mail address:

ei8fdb@ei8fdb.org, or ring me on 076-6021877



Manning the IRTS stand at Friedrichshafen 2009 were Sean EI7CD and Finbarr EI1CS

Surprise 50th Birthday Party for Billy EI7CQB



Pictured at the party in Castleisland: L. to R:
Donie EI8CS, John EI9ESB, Billy EI7CQB, Steve EI8FHB,
John EI9JO, David EI2EMB

Photo by EI7EGB

Cover Pictures

Top Picture: SEARG members operate a special event station from a Geopark, the copper coast in Waterford. (see page 22).

Bottom Picture: Clockwise from top left: Sean EI4GK; Declan EI9HQ, Pete EI4GZB, Pete GI4VIV and Joe EI7GY. They operated GI0MPG from the East Lighthouse on Rathlin Island in the recent Islands On The Air Contest.

Silent Key

Pat Mooney EI 6DA



Pat Mooney EI6DA died peacefully on Monday evening September 21st last after a long illness in the loving care of his family at his family home on Johnstown Road, Dun Laoghaire.

Pat had spent his life as a dedicated member of the Gardai and rose through the ranks to eventually retire as Garda Superintendent. He moved to Navan as Superintendent and was later transferred to the Garda Depot, Phoenix Park, Dublin up to his retirement which was about twenty years ago.

Pat lived for a time in Castleknock and after retirement Pat and his wife Marie moved to Dun Laoghaire.

Born in Dublin he was very proud of his roots and his family, sadly his wife Marie predeceased him about ten years ago.

Pat was a very private man and very reserved and a late comer to the world of amateur radio. A gentleman to his fingertips he was always ready to do the good turn or help fellow amateurs. After he retired from the Gardai sadly his eyesight began to prematurely fail and his neighbouring radio colleagues were not found wanting and were always there to help with antennas etc.

Pat was a great supporter of the Worked All Ireland Award Scheme and achieved Ultimate Award No. 2 in 2001 followed by a 40m Ultimate Award in 2002. This involved working over 1400 squares, 32 counties and 25 islands.

Pat deep down used to describe himself as a bit of a dealer (he sometimes also described himself as a bit of a k.....) and enjoyed having a table at various rallies and enjoyed the haggle with his radio colleagues.

He was buried in Shanganagh Cemetery in Shankill, Dublin on Saturday September 26th.

Pat lived for a time in the '80s in Navan and was a regular at club meetings of the Royal Meath Amateur Radio Club and could always be relied to be the first to put his name down for the club's bus outings to the Killyhevlin in Enniskillen.

The amateur world is very much the poorer tonight with the death of one of this country's finest and most respected Superintendent amongst his Garda colleagues, especially along the border where he served during the difficult times of the "Troubles" shortly after being appointed Superintendent.

(Pat used to recall one incident along the border when he met the Rev. Ian Paisley and his followers and after Pat as the Officer in Charge advised the Rev. Gentleman that he better return to the other jurisdiction ASAP, Paisley thanked him for his advice and protection and then duly gave Pat a book to read - I think Pat said it was a book on grandfather clocks or watches which Paisley had with him as he is regarded as an enthusiast in this field)

Pat Mooney, despite his responsibility for safety and discipline of his area Gardai also had the reputation as being a very caring Christian man, a caring which extended beyond his family circle to his Garda colleagues and to providing Christian support to neighbours and especially radio colleagues during any serious illness or need.

May he now rest in Peace as he is finally laid to rest beside his beloved late wife Marie. Sadly remembered by PC and his many friends in the Royal Meath Amateur Radio Club.

Phil Cantwell EI9P

CQ Announces 75th Anniversary Worked All Zones Award

(Hicksville, NY - September 18, 2009) - The November, 1934, issue of R/9 magazine announced a new operating award for radio amateurs, designed to encourage the growing popularity of contacting stations across the globe, what we know today as DXing. The award was called Worked All Zones and was to be granted for making confirmed contacts with hams in each of the 40 zones into which the world had been divided by R/9's editors. Today, 75 years later, R/9 has been succeeded by CQ magazine and WAZ - Worked All Zones - sponsored by CQ since 1945, continues to be one of amateur radio's most prestigious operating awards.

In celebration of the WAZ's 75th anniversary, CQ magazine is announcing a limited-term "Diamond Jubilee WAZ" award. A special certificate will be issued to amateurs who make contacts in all 40 CQ Zones of the World between November 1, 2009 and December 31, 2010.

Certificates will be numbered but there will be no endorsements. Confirmations will not be required.

However, it is expected that applicants will continue to uphold amateur radio's long-standing tradition of honesty and self-regulation. Standard WAZ application fees will apply.

Complete details on the Diamond Jubilee WAZ Award will be in the October 2009 issue of CQ, and are posted on the CQ website,

<www.cq-amateur-radio.com>, with a link from the October issue highlights page.

WAZ is the second-oldest amateur radio operating award still offered today. The only current award that is older is the International Amateur Radio Union's Worked All Continents award.

The ARRL's DX Century Club (DXCC) award was introduced in 1936. To date, more than 8,600 basic WAZ awards have been issued.

More information on the WAZ award program is available on the CQ website at <www.cq-amateur-radio.com/awards.html>

EI2GBW Special event Station Cork Swansea Ferry

The purchase of MV Julia for the new Cork-Swansea ferry service has now been completed. Julia left Finland on 16 September bound for Swansea, and is expected there on Wednesday 23 September for berthing trials before continuing on to Cork.

Following her brief visit to Swansea, Julia was expected in Cork on Friday 25th September. To celebrate her arrival in Cork, special event station EI2GBW planned to operate from the AREN mobile command post trailer at Horgans Quay on the day she arrives in Cork.

EI2GBW was QRV on 80m and 40m for the day. Planned frequencies are 3.660 to 3.680 MHz and 7.120 to 7.140 MHz.

Operators were John EI2GN, Tim EI2KA, Conor EI4JN and John EI9JO. Visit the EI2GBW page on QRZ.com for background information on the station.

A possible end for PWBR?

by

Peter Mac Dougall MC1J, EI-299, G7VEW

I'm sure that many of us will be very disappointed to hear that there may be no 25th edition of what has almost become the broadcast listeners' annual 'bible', The Passport To World Band Radio.

The distinguished editor, Larry Magne has announced that, 'due to anomalies' the 2010 book will not appear.

Larry actually coined the phrase – *World Band Radio* to make SWLing a positive hobby set apart from 'ham' radio.

PWBR has been enlightening the world's short wave enthusiasts for a quarter of a century with the very best and up-to-date information on almost every aspect of our hobby.

A comprehensive frequency listing section, the 'Blue Pages' has been my personal guide throughout each year, - I only missed the first and seventh editions, and every book gave me the best details about all the current radio receivers on the market. There were articles and evaluations on antennas, comprehensive programme notes and lists of station addresses, all presented in a very readable way.

The supporting photographs were excellent too, as were the myriad of professional advertisements from the major manufacturers and world-wide dealers.

I think that it is fair to say that, as a rival to the WRTH ('the Handbook') the Passport actually outdid that other annual, especially during the last few years - and particularly as times-are-hard, we could only afford one radio book at Christmas.

I bought five different portable radios over the last 15 years purely on the recommendation of the PWBR and was not disappointed in any way.

Now I have the 'low-down' on every receiver produced since 1992, good and bad.

Larry Mange is probably the world's second best well-known radio 'anorak', (the other being Glenn Hauser) and, in the September issue of the American magazine "Monitoring Times" he has assured the readers that the popular 'WorldScan Database' will continue on the 'net.

The web page; www.passband.com will also continue, so perhaps the 'anomalies' may only be with the printed version, let us hope that whatever the difficulties are they may be overcome.

'Passport' – thank you, - you will be missed!

Also, credit for the initial announcement must go to; www.grove-ent.com the mail order outlet/publisher of 'Monitoring Times'.

73 de a sad 'teenage pensioner'

Echo Ireland as PDF.

If you would like to receive Echo Ireland by way of electronic download, and so help to reduce the Society's postage bill, please advise the Membership Records Officer.

Include your call sign and email address in the request, and send it to:

memrecords@irts.ie

The Incoming QSL Bureau

The incoming QSL manager would like to remind you to check your logbook entries against eQSL or some other such method to see if that station you have just worked has been added correctly to your logbook (either paper or pc).

The numbers of QSL cards been returned to the P.O. Box with "not in my log" seems to be getting bigger.

The sub-manager for the EI-3 series said "the amount has risen for him and he wondered was it down to the pileups and the fact that the wrong key's were being-pressed in the heat of the pileup.

Special Event Callsigns

The Bureau would also like to remind you to let your sub-manager know of any special event call sign you operate so the hard work of getting it on the air does not go to waste by your card from the station you spent ages working been returned to sender because he did not know who it was for.

ComReg does not advise of temporary calls signs issued.

If you have passed your Morse test in the last year or so and changed your callsign, please remind your previous sub-manager of your old call sign and to now send your QSL cards to your new one .

SolderSmoke

SolderSmoke is a fortnightly podcast available from www.soldersmoke.com which covers current and topical news items in the field of amateur radio and specialising in workbench projects. The podcast is hosted by Bill Meara, N2CQR.

Recently Bill published the book, SolderSmoke, which is a story about his "afterhours life" in electronics. The book is a technical memoir with solutions to those problems one encounters in the understanding of certain facets of electronics and the design of homebrew equipment.

The book is available from www.lulu.com and costs €18.23.

Highly recommended as reading material for a long journey and for those dabbling in home construction

EI2V/P

80m Counties Contest June 21st

Turlough Hill, Co. Wicklow

Station consisted of an Icom 756 into an 80m dipole and 80m EH antenna.
58 QSOs were made into 26 different counties.

Picture shows left to right Mick, Martin EI5GB, Noel EI7FRB and Joe.



Lagan Valley ARS Radio Rally Saturday 20th March 2010

Village Centre, Hillsborough

Information: Jim Henry, G10DVU on 048 926 62270



Baluns - an overview with Tony EI5EM

This article attempts, in simple terms, to clear up some of the confusion that surrounds BALUN transformers. The term BALUN is simply derived from the words BALanced and UNbalanced.

My dictionary defines BALANCE as "an equal distribution". Therefore UNBALANCE must mean "an unequal distribution". An antenna system is balanced when there are two identical halves. A centre-fed dipole antenna is balanced because both sides of it are of "equal" length while a long-wire antenna or a ground-plane is unbalanced. A BALUN can transform a connection point from a balanced to an unbalanced state or visa versa.

A feeder forms part of every antenna system and feeders can be balanced or unbalanced also. A parallel twin-feeder is balanced because the two conductors are "equal" and identical. However, even though the two conductors of a coaxial feeder are of "equal" length, they are not physically identical. Coaxial cable is therefore an unbalanced feeder.

Ideally, balanced antennas are fed with balanced feeders while unbalanced are fed with unbalanced feeders (usually coaxial). Most modern rigs have an unbalanced antenna connection suitable for coaxial cable (PL259). If an unbalanced antenna (say a ground-plane) is fed with coaxial cable then the entire system is unbalanced in all respects.

If we were using a balanced antenna, say a half-wave dipole, and feeding it with coaxial cable then an unbalanced feeder would be interfacing with a balanced antenna. RF current in the braid of the feeder could cause radiation resulting in unwanted interference (TVI). If a BALUN transformer was installed between the coaxial cable and dipole then the antenna would be looking into what it

considers a balanced feed while the rig would be happy looking into, what is for it, is an unbalanced system.

Another solution would be to install a BALUN next to the rig and feed the dipole antenna with balanced twin-feeder because the transformation between balanced and unbalanced states would have been achieved at the transmitter. The currents in each conductor of the feeder would be equal and opposite and the resulting RF fields would cancel each other out, preventing unwanted radiation (TVI) from the feeder.

Impedance: While a BALUN transforms between two states, it does not necessarily match the impedance of the antenna system to the transmitter (50 Ohms normally). A transmitter will deliver maximum power if the antenna system's impedance (including feeder) is also 50 Ohms. If there is an impedance mismatch, between transmitter and antenna system, power will be lost and, if the resulting SWR is too high, the transmitter could be damaged. RF interference could also result.

Feeder cables have their own characteristic impedances (50, 75, 300, 450, 600 Ohms etc).

The usual solution to impedance mismatches is to install an ATU (antenna tuning unit) near the rig. Once the ATU is properly adjusted, the rig will be looking at a 50 Ohm load, SWR will be low but a mismatch between feeder and antenna can still exist if their impedances differ. Installing a second ATU at the feed-point is a possible solution. However installing a suitable RF transformer of correct impedance ratio between feeder and antenna is a more practical solution.

Suppose we are using 300 Ohm twin ribbon to feed a half-wave dipole (about 75

Ohms impedance). An ATU when properly adjusted will satisfy the rig's 50 Ohm requirement, but adding a 4:1 RF transformer at the antenna feed-point will match the feeder impedance to the dipole impedance ($4 \times 75 = 300$).

Now, suppose we are using 50 Ohm coaxial cable to feed a half-wave folded dipole (300 Ohms). At the antenna there is an impedance mismatch but we also have the situation where a balanced antenna is being fed by an unbalanced feeder. In this case a 6:1 ratio RF transformer would deal satisfactorily with the mismatch ($6 \times 50 = 300$).

However, if the same transformer is also wound as a BALUN, it will also resolve the balanced to unbalanced situation.

It must be noted that half wave dipoles have approximately 70 Ohms impedance at their resonant frequency only. Folded dipoles similarly have an impedance of about 300 Ohms at their resonant frequency only.

The most common ratios available from BALUN manufacturers are 1:1 and 4:1. However, a BALUN transformer can be designed for any impedance matching ratio.

To summarise, a BALUN is used in a situation where an unbalanced state meets a balanced state or visa versa. It can also be designed to match impedances and in so doing has two functions.

A further article will follow on home-brewing simple BALUNS.

In the meantime I hope that this article has dispelled some of the confusion and not added to it!

Best 73 de Tony EI5EM

MFJ Buys Cushcraft

MFJ Enterprises has purchased the Cushcraft amateur radio antenna product line from Laird Technologies, Cushcraft's parent company. In a news release, Mississippi-based MFJ said the antennas will continue to be manufactured in New Hampshire.

500kHz in the U.S.A.

For the past three years, the ARRL has been conducting propagation and communication experiments on 500 kHz, under terms of an experimental license -- WD2XSH -- issued by the FCC in the fall of 2006. The *ARRL Letter* now reports that the FCC has expanded the size and scope of the experiment, permitting the number of authorized stations to increase from 23 to 42 and broadening the permitted frequencies from the original 505-510 kHz to 495-510 kHz. In addition, portable operation is being allowed for the first time.

Pictures from the Cork Rally 2009



John EI9JO

Billy EI7CQB



Dick EI6HH,

Vincent EI7HN

Michael EI1659



Denis EI8GAB & Andy EI1584



Limerick visitors: Tony EI9IL, Michael EI9FEB & SWL Robert



Keith EI7GZB



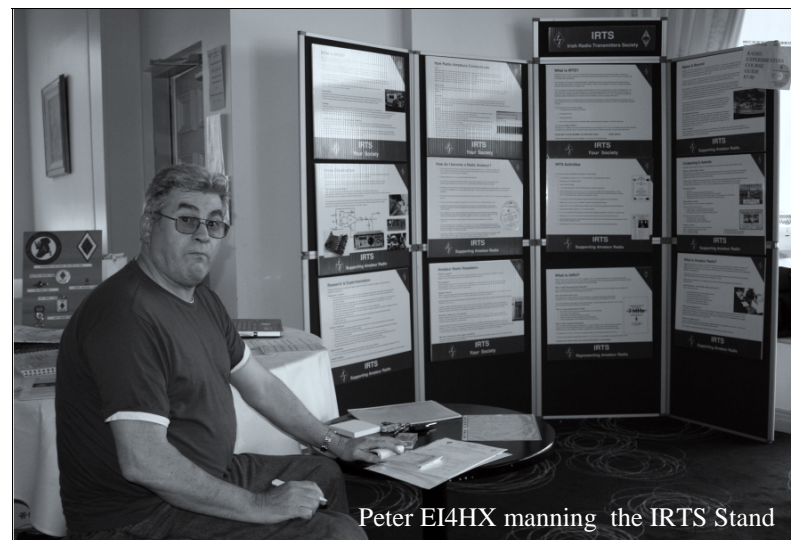
Jerry EI3BK, John EI7EM, John EI7BA, Toby EI7FO



Ger EI8HT



John EI4GJ



Peter EI4HX manning the IRTS Stand



HF Happenings

with Dave Deane EI9FBB

Welcome to another issue of 'HF Happenings' and nice to see a noticeable increase in activity since the last issue.

Glorioso Island FT5GA

The much anticipated DXpedition to Glorioso Island, are currently 'gracing' the bands as I write this. Yes, the FT5GA call-sign is a popular sight these past few days on the DX clusters, chatrooms and various reflectors, although the French team also seem to be attracting more than their fair share of criticism, jamming, deliberate QRM etc. which is sadly becoming more common these days. In fact, it appears, that the 'rarer' the DXpedition, the more desperate these QRMers are to try to disrupt it. As mentioned in the previous issue of 'HF Happenings', this trip is mainly a French military project, with general maintenance being the priority and Ham Radio second. To try to get an understanding of what exactly is happening on the island, the following has been extracted from the pages of 'The Daily DX' with kind permission of Bernie, W3UR ;

F5OGL, Didier Senmartin, who has been the point man for this DXpedition from day one, gives us some insight into why Glorioso is the number four DXCC entity on The DX Magazine's Most Wanted list.

This DXpedition project began some five years ago with a lot of behind the scenes work that many Amateur Radio operators are unaware of. From the very beginning the plan has been to combine an Amateur Radio DXpedition with some needed maintenance to equipment in the Iles Eparses, says Didier.

The Eparses Islands, which translates into English as "scattered islands", are located in the Indian Ocean and include the islands of Europa, Glorioso, Tromelin and the Bassas da India atoll. These islands were under the administration of the island of Reunion, until January 3, 2005. Since then the islands have been administered by Terres Australes et Antartiques Francaises (TAAF).

The all French military FT5GA team have not received any special treatment and will be transported to the island just as any other "Zone Servicemen", as they are servicemen first and hams second.

The Eparses Islands are extremely protected as the French authorities are very keen about them. The islands have very rare fauna and flora and the French are protecting the islands. This is yet another reason of high difficulty to go to these islands.

Requests by tourist agencies and Amateur Radio DXpeditioners have been and will continue to be "systematically refused" in order to protect the islands. Didier has been negotiating with both the "Reunion Prefect" and then the TAAF over the past five years. In fact the TAAF will be sending a representative along with the crew on the military plane to Grande Glorieuse, where he will spend two days with the DXpedition team on the island. He will be observing the DXpedition first hand as he watches the antennas and stations being assembled and then some actual operating. "We think that's very important for the future of some DXpeditions to the Eparses Islands with our crew or some other", says Didier. Sponsorship for this DXpedition, especially from the major

manufactures was extremely difficult, probably because of the multiple postponements and the final short notice for this most recent attempt.

The team members going to Glorioso are supplying a majority of the equipment from their own gear, some of which was purchased, at no discount, with their own funds. Didier thanks both the Provins F6KOP ARC and Batima, a French electronics store, for their support from the very beginning. The team also thanks the many Amateur Radio clubs and associations for their support.

The FT5GA team of operators will include F5PRU, Jean Michel; F5LPY, Bernard; F5IRO, Freddy; F8CRS, David; and F4EGS, Philippe.

The pilot stations for this DXpedition are:

Europe - F6AOJ, Jeff - Glorioso-Eu-Pilot@orange.fr

US East Coast - N5FG, Floyd - floydgee@datasync.com

Japan - JA1ELY, Toshi - ja1ely@bb.mbn.or.jp

Asia - UA0MF, Mike - ua0mf@mail.ru

VK & ZL - ZL2AL, Lee - leejen@paradise.net.nz

F5CQ, Rafik, is the team's Webmaster - <http://glorieuses2008.free.fr/>.

The FT5GA operating permit is valid from September 14th through October 10th. The team will have four stations including a K3, two FT990's and an FT857D. They will have three ACOM 1010 amplifiers and Dunestar band filters.

Spiderbeams will be used on 10 through 28 MHz and quarter wave verticals will be used on 160, 80 and 40 meters.

For receiving antennas on the low bands they will have access to K9AY receive antennas and beverages.

By the time you read this, the team should still be QRV and the 'blazing' pile ups should have calmed a little. 20m in our late afternoon/early evening is the band of preference for this one, as shows the best possible path, however, as we speak, the team have been already worked from 12m through to 80m from EI, so here's hoping that many more make it into their log and 'nab' this rare one.

Full report should be available for the next issue.

7O1YGF – Yemen

Completely unexpectedly, and almost 10 years later, great news arrives regarding a DXpedition which took place in April 2000. Up to now, this 7O1YGF, (7 Oscar 1 Yemen German Friendship), DXpedition had NOT been counted towards DXCC, however, the following has been released by NC1L, Bill Moore (DXCC award Manager) ;

7O1YGF – Yemen

Operation from April 16, 2000 through April 26, 2000

After reviewing recently-received information regarding the 7O1YGF operation, and after additional dialogue with a leader of the DXpedition, the DXCC desk has approved this operation.

Considering the length of time that has passed since this operation, we ask that DXCC participants who would like to claim credit for 7O1YGF follow the options below:

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(Continued from page 8)

Send the 701YGF card ONLY to DXCC with a SASE, or return postage if outside the US; DXCC will process the card and applicants will not be charged a submission fee. 701YGF cards included with other cards will be handled as part of a normal submission.

Bring the card to a DXCC Card Checker. The card checker will forward the confirmation to the DXCC desk for processing. Again, there will be no submission fee if this is a single-card submission. You must fill out an application form, however.

In all other cases applicants can include their QSL card with their next submission, and it will be handled normally. We will work with the 701YGF team to use Logbook of the World if possible.

Remember, the cutoff date for the 2009 DXCC Annual listing and Honor Roll list is December 31, 2009. We encourage applicants to handle this sooner rather than wait until the last minute.

73 es DX!

Bill Moore NC1L

Awards Branch Manager

3D20CR Conway Reef

DJ8NK, Jan, says all is ready and set for the 3D20CR Conway Reef operation. 250 kilograms of air freight left Hamburg a couple days ago as an advance shipment of gear. The eight operators fly out this Wednesday, the 24th, then take a 3-day boat voyage, to arrive on Conway September 29 or possibly the 30th depending on wind and weather. He says the start date of October 1 is still his best guess.

VP2MNK Montserrat

And that's not the end of DJ8NK's travels; he goes to Montserrat for an operation November 3-15. He will have the call VP2MNK. Also in that operation are DM2RUM, Tom, with the VP2MUM callsign; and DM2XO, Rudi, signing VP2MXO. The three ops plan to roam the bands from 160-10M, CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL to their home calls direct or bureau.

8R1PY Guyana

A team from Brazil will be putting on a DXpedition from Lethem, Guyana as 8R1PY from October 31st to November 4th. Team members include PU8TEP, Ed; PV8AZ, Abilio; PV8DX, Paulo; PV8IG, Ivanildo; PY1YB, Ivan; PY2TNT, Anderson; PY2WAS, Alex; and 8R1WD, Peter. Activity is expected on 6, 10, 12, 15 17, 20, 30, 40, 80 and 160 meters on SSB, CW, RTTY and BPSK. QSL cards should be sent to PY2WAS, directly or via bureau.

IOTA OC-033

FK/JA1NLX, Akira, expects to be QRV November 19-24 from Ouvéa Island in the Loyalty Islands, New Caledonia. This is IOTA OC-033. He plans to be on 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10m CW and RTTY. Keeping his gear under 50 pounds in weight, he'll have an IC-706MK2 and 4m-long portable antenna. QSL via JA1NLX via the bureau or LoTW or direct with an SASE. He will make an on-line log available when he gets home to Japan.

C91VM Mozambique

C91VM in Mozambique will be IK1RAE, Marco, October 5-23. Marco will be on 40-10M SSB with 100 watts to a vertical.

He plans to make some IOTA side trips to AF-061, 066, 072 and 088. QSL direct only, with the proceeds from QSLs going to a charity project in a village, Malangute. Info will be put on QRZ.com.

YS4U El Salvador

YS4U in El Salvador will be in the CQWW CW November 28-29 with five operators going multi-single. They are DF7OGO, K3WT, N0AT, N0STL and W0OR. The inclusive dates of their visit are November 20-December 1.

They plan to be active outside the contest, as you would expect. QSL via N0AT.

FO8RZ French Polynesia

F5PHW, Phil, has been in Tahiti, French Polynesia since this past August and will be QRV as FO8RZ until August 2011. He is running 100 watts mostly on CW with some RTTY. Phil has a Yagi for 10, 15 and 20 meters up about 6 meters high. He also has an inverted vee for 40 and 80 metres as well as an HF6V, which can be used on 30, 17 and 12 meters. Phil also has a 160 metre kit for the HF6V and plans to install it this weekend. QSL via LOTW or via F8BPN, either direct or via the French Ref-Union bureau.

South Georgia Island

MM0DWF/DL9LB, Lars, will arrive in Husvik on South Georgia Island on October 6th, says DJ9ZB, Franz, who will be the QSL manager. Lars will have a 100 watt rig and G5RV. He will be QRV on RTTY, CW and SSB in his spare time through mid-November. Lars has a Web page at www.lars-boehme.de/vp8dif. Don't be disillusioned by Lars' modest working conditions, as you can imagine, he experiences a very low noise level whenever he is on South Georgia and hears very well. I'm aware of a few EI's that worked him last October when he was last on the island. Remember, if you can hear him with his 100W, he can definitely hear you.

Sable Island

The October 19 DXpedition to Sable Island by N0TG, AA4VK and WA4DAN is "being placed on hold." N0TG's son, Carter, part of the KP5 expedition of 1992, has developed kidney cancer which has spread to his lungs. The team appreciates the support and prayers which "will strengthen this family and successfully bring all through this trial."

The web site, www.CY0dxpedition.com, is being left up and updates on Carter's progress will be added from time to time, as well as plans to reschedule the CY0 operation. Randy says, "Our hope is that Carter will beat this disease and be able to join us at Sable Island

XR0Y Easter Island

The international team heading to Easter Island (XR0Y), from October 31st to November 15th, has announced their QSL route. SQ8X will handle cards for Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania. Direct cards can go to Stan, P.O. Box 8, 38-600 Lesko, POLAND. QSL cards for North, Central and South America go direct to: Radio Club de Chile, P.O. Box 13630, 330996 Santiago, CHILE. Both routes can also go via the bureau. For more details on QSLing see their Web page at <http://rapanui2009.org/xr0y-qsl-information>.

Svalbard

LA3XIA, Maurits, tells W0YR, Mike, that LA3XIA and others

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

are heading to Svalbard next month. JW3XIA, JW7WCA, JW/G4ATA and JW9LMA will be QRV from October 8th to 15th with an emphasis on 40, 80 and 160 meters and they will also be on 20 meters.

YT1AD and YU1DW, Hrane and Miki, plan another swing through the Pacific islands. **KH8/N9YU** will be September 30-October 1. Callsigns **5W7A and 5W0DW** will be October 2-3. **3D2AD and 3D2DW** will be October 4-6, and **T30M and T30W** will be October 6-8. YT3W, Acim, says the main target of the trip is getting paperwork squared away for the next operation, planned for September-October, 2010, going to T31, ZK3 and FW8. www.yt1ad.info/t31.

Efate Island (OC-35), Vanuatu (YJ0)

VK2CCC (LY1DF), Tomas, reports he is going to Efate Island (OC-35), Vanuatu (YJ0) at the end of October. He will be operating on 1.8 and 3.5 MHz and perhaps even some 40 metre activity if propagation on 160 and 80 is poor. Dates for this operation will be October 30th to November 5th. As of the moment he does not know his YJ0 callsign.

Tomas say this will be a "part time operation" and will emphasize openings during "European sunset and US sunrise times". His station will consist of a 100 watt rig, a quarter wave vertical on 80 metres and an Inverted L vertical for 1.8 MHz. QSL via the bureau to VK2CCC.

Special event station **VC3COPP** will be QRV in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Ontario Provincial Police Force (OPP) from October 2nd to 31st. They have a Web page at www.qsl.net/ve3bdb/vc3copp.htm. QSL via VE3BDB.

IK1PMR, Andrea, updates us on the international team heading to the Pacific in mid-November and leading up to the Christmas holidays.

First stop will be **Samoa (5W)** from November 11th to 18th. Andrea has requested 5W0MR and seems the others have also made individual requests for calls. The team for this one includes: IK1PMR, PA3LEO, PA0BWL, AA4NN, DJ5IW, OZ1IKY and DJ7JC. In fact they have received their A31 licenses, along with authorization for running up to 400 watts and use of the newly assigned 5 MHz band. Their calls are as follows:

A31A special call (IK1PMR and group)

A31MR = IK1PMR A31LEO = PA3LEO/K2LEO (YL)

A31WL = PA0BWL A31NN = AA4NN

A31SN = OE2SNL A31IW = DJ5IW

A31JC = DJ7JC

The team plans to use their new A31 prefix calls from November 19th to December 1st. For more details on this DXpedition check out their Web page at www.ik1pmr.com/plans/a3/.

First stop will be Samoa (5W) from November 11th to 18th.

Next stop will be **Tonga (A3)** from November 19th to December 1st. Andrea says he has requested A35MR and the others have also requested their own calls. The international team on Tonga will be: IK1PMR, PA3LEO, PA0BWL, AA4NN, OE2SNL, DJ5IW, OZ1IKY and DJ7JC. Plans are to participate in the CQ WW CW. Category to be decided with possibly a special call.

The international team will next go to New Zealand from December 2nd to 6th, where they probably will operate from **Wai-**

heke Island (OC-201).

The ops for this one include: IK1PMR, PA3LEO, PA0BWL, AA4NN, OE2SNL, DJ5IW, OZ1IKY and DJ7JC. This one will be a "holiday style operation" with ZL/home calls being used.

Rarotonga, South Cooks are next for the international group. Andrea has asked for E51PMR and the others will have their own calls. Activity will run from December 6th to 13th. The ops for this one will be: IK1PMR-E51PMR, PA3LEO-51LEO, PA0BWL-E51BWL, AA4NN-E51EEE, OE2SNL-E51SNL, DJ5IW-E51XIW and DJ7JC-E51NAA.

And finally they will close down from Singapore between December 14th and 17th. This time using 9V/home calls. The ops will be IK1PMR, PA3LEO and PA0BWL. This one will also be a "holiday style operation" on CW and the digital modes.

During the operations on Samoa, Tonga and Rarotonga they will be focusing on Europe, the low bands, 12, 17 and 30 meters and RTTY.

Plans are to have four stations, three with amplifiers. The team has a Web page at www.ik1pmr.com/plans/a3/ and QSL routes are yet to be announced.

3D2MJ and 3D2KJ Figi (OC-016)

The 2 Jaceks, Jacek SP5EAQ & Jacek SP5DRH are heading to Viti Levu, Figi (OC-016) from October 1st to 28th. 3D2MJ and 3D2KJ will be QRV on all bands, however, will put a strong emphasis on the low bands. They hope to be QRV with 2 stations, amps and vertical antennas. QSL to their home calls.

A52FJJ Bhutan

JA1FJJ, Yasuo, will be heading off to Bhutan where he will be QRV as A52FJJ for a holiday style operation from 8th to 20th October. He will be QRV from 10m through 80m on SSB, RTTY & other digi-modes. He is taking an FT-450 and a 500W amp into wire antennas. QSL to his homecall, via buro or Direct to his QRZ.com address.

That's about all for this issue I'm afraid, however, as of late, more regular appearances of sunspot activity is promising of a much awaited introduction of cycle 24 thus causing a little stir on the higher HF bands.

15m is opening most days and being the band that it is, some nice DX pickings are often there for the taking. 12m still has regular openings although the usual North/South path is mostly observed.

However, this can frequently lead to openings to ZS, Z2, 5N, 9J and other various African regions. The MUF rarely rises to 28MHz as of late so it's mostly sporadic across Europe I'm afraid here.

17 & 20m are still the main 'bread and butter' bands for the next few weeks however, into mid/late October, should see increased activity from 40m and below where distances of 10,000Kms should be easily obtainable even with a modest station.

I hope to run the band reports column again from next month onwards so please feel free to send in your log extracts to : ei9fbb@oceanfree.net

Until next time, vy 73 es best DX.

de Dave, EI9FBB



Excerpt from the HX files

A Look at ATV with Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX - Excerpt 006

Hello and welcome to excerpt 006 from my files, this time we have a look at portable operation

The first thing you do when planning a portable operation is make a list . Just ask anyone that has gone portable if they had forgotten anything the first time they went out .

When you have make up your list, how about doing a dummy run and set up the portable station out in your garden, (see photo 1) as if it was miles from home to see if you have forgotten anything You don't have to erect anything just lay it all on the ground and see would you have a working station if it all was connected.

My first foray into ATV/P was not perfect (gosh!) as I had forgotten a couple of SMA to N adaptors but as I was only a couple of kilometres from my home a quick dash there and back (after having to put some of the gear back into the car) and I was able to keep my skeds with the late Dermot EI2AK, Michael EI5GG and Mark EI9FX.

I could have easily been kilometres away and that would not have been a good thing and it could have put an end to that portable event .

At the time photo number 1 was taken I had only one 1.2 GHz Tx and Rx unit and I was scared that anything would happen

to them. As they had the SMA connectors on them also I had to be careful not to damage the threads on them with all the disconnecting and reconnecting going from home to /portable .

As I mentioned in an earlier file I put them into a couple of project boxes to keep them safer and dry, just in case it would rain while I was out and about .

In photo number 1 you can see the 35 element Tonna for 1.2 GHz on the mast before it can be raised it to its full height of 10 meters. Photo 4 shows it up the full height.

If you go to the Dundalk A.R.S. web site (ei7dar.com) you can see some video of a test I did with some of my portable ATV gear with Derek EI7CHB and Mark EI9FX from outside the home of Thos EI2JD in Clogherhead.

In that video you can see the 35 element Tonna mounted on a 3 metre mast with the Rx unit attached direct to the Tonna and the dc and audio/video cables hanging loose from the Rx unit. (Also visible is the monitor which was a portable DVD player that I bought as a monitor only as the DVD player was broken).

You can also see a 1.2 GHz Rx (purchased from G1MFG). It is a self contained unit with a frequency display.

Photo numbers 2 and 3 show a couple of new 1.2 GHz ATV Tx/Rx units I am working on at the moment that will cut down on the amount of cables and leads I have been using and it will mean I will have a self-contained unit and not have half a dozen bits to wrap up for portable work. (And not having the inside of the car looking like someone threw a pot of spaghetti over the seats).

Photo 2 is of a 2 watt Tx/Rx that is up and running and photo 3 is of a 10'ish watt Tx/Rx that has a few more hours left on it before being completed .

I find going portable great fun ,even in the bad weather (yeah right!) as it all adds to the experience of yet another portable event and the confidence you get from another successful outing will spur you on to go portable yet again, hail rain snow or sunshine (whatever that is).



Photo 1

Although when you are putting all the gear together and you see what you have to assemble, for in some cases just a couple of hours, you have to wonder where the fun bit is .

Sure if it all gets too much for you, and if the tablets don't work, you can always take a break in the home for the bewildered.

Take care when you set up your portable station and think about the cables and wires that you have setup and the visitors that may call to your site, as some of them maybe cursed with two left feet.

Thanks yet again to Thos EI2JD for taking the photo's for me.

May all your signals be 5&9.
73 from Pat EI2HX.



Photo 2

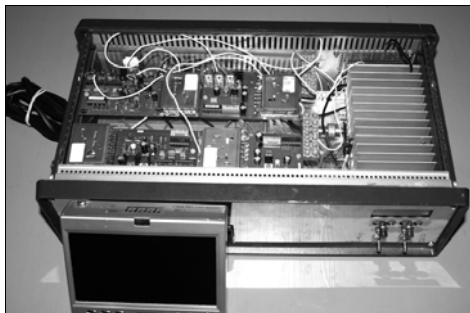


Photo 3



Photo 4,
The ATV aerial in photo 1 now raised up 10m

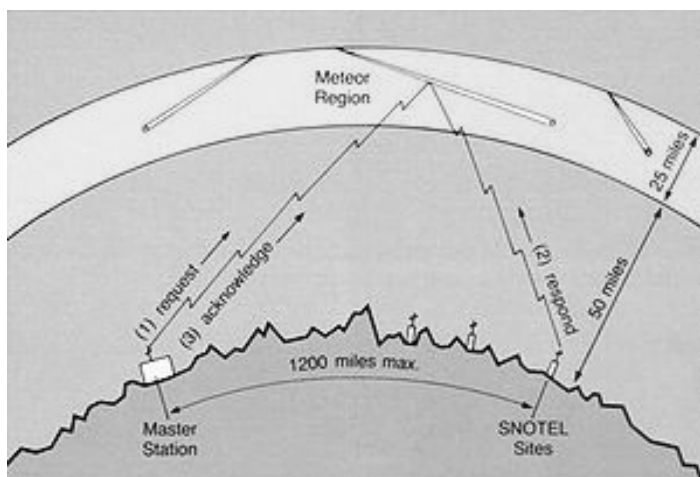


VHF Roundup with Trevor Dunne EI2GLB

Hi and welcome to the second edition of VHF Roundup. With the summer months behind us we have seen the end of another Summer Sporadic E season and while this one won't go down in history as being a great one it did provide some good opening.

Hopefully in the months ahead we can look forward to some tropo and aurora propagation. I have been told by some more knowledgeable operators than me that the VHF bands are never dead you just have to look harder to find a contact.

One of the most common ways of making contacts on the VHF bands in the off season is meteor scatter. MS is a radio propagation mode that exploits the ionized trails of meteors during atmospheric entry to establish brief communications paths between radio stations up to 2250 kilometres (1400 miles) apart.



Depending on the level of Meteors contacts can take minutes to hours to complete. It is possible to make contact most days using MS. Any mode is possible to use but the most common on the bands are FSK441 and JT6M. JT seems to be more popular on 6/4m and FSK is the mode of choice on 2m.

WSJT is an excellent Software package developed by K1JT and is available to download from his webpage at <http://www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/>

Some MS contact from my log so far this year are.

On 6m GU8FBO in IN89 at 510Km and S57RR in JN65 1711Km.

On 4m DL3YEE in JO42 at 1054Km and CT1FJC in IM57 at 1789Km

And finally 2m IK2DDR in JN55 at 1516Km and SMØEJY in JO89 at 1644Km

Contacts up to about 2000km are quite easy if the conditions are good and having a smaller antenna with a wider beam width is a bonus as it helps to spread your signal out further giving you more chances to hit off that meteor.

Moving on to some band reports from Active EI's on the VHF bands. All info listed is taken from DX Cluster and other Sites on the internet. If anyone wants to send me reports please feel free.

6 Metres.

There were openings nearly everyday in July and some good multi-hop openings towards the east west and south have been logged. Some of note has been:

Dermot EI7IX in Mayo working KP4EIT, NP4A and NP3CW on the 19th. Also stations from Cuba, Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago have been heard or worked by Dermot.

Thos EI2JD in Co Louth has had a very busy season on 6m working lots of new DXCC's. Some of note are YV4DYJ in Venezuela, PJ2LS in Curacao and TZ6EI in Mali.

Dave EI9FBB who as we all know does an excellent job writing the HF Reports for Echo Ireland is also very active on the Magic band and some of his contacts to note have been. J79PAK in Dominica, V29JKV in Antigua and possibly the only EI to work JL8GFB in Japan this season.

Some of my own contact, include PV8AZ in Brazil, ZC4LI which is quite a rare DXCC on the Island of Cyprus and 6W1SJ in Senegal.

Other EI's that have been spotted on 6m over the summer months are EI4EY, EI6AL, EI9FVB, EI3GE, EI8JK, EI3IO, EI7IG and EI8IQ. I am sure I have missed many more. It's good to see more people get active on the band.

4Metres

Pat EI8IQ in Wexford has worked OK2POI in Czech Republic CT1EAT in Portugal and 9A3LM in Croatia.

Dave EI3IO in Dublin has been busy on the bands and lists contacts with GJ4ISM in Jersey. EA5EF in Spain. S51DI in Slovenia and ES1CW in Estonia. I have worked EC3DR in Spain, OK1TEH in Czech Republic and CT1FFU in Portugal.

2009 Table (Updated September 7th)

| Callsign | 50 MHz | 70 MHz | 144 MHz | 432 MHz | 1296 MHz | 10 GHz | Totals |
|---------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|----------|--------|--------|
| EI2GLB | 222 | 42 | 53 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 327 |
| EI2JD | 239 | 1 | 27 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 272 |
| EI310 | 179 | 55 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 243 |
| EI8JK | 172 | 0 | 54 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 226 |
| EI4GHB | 103 | 4 | 56 | 6 | 12 | 8 | 189 |
| EI8IQ | 139 | 13 | 34 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 187 |
| EI8IX | 102 | 44 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 146 |
| EI9FBB | 138 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 138 |
| EI9FVB | 123 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 123 |
| EI7GL | 108 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 111 |
| EI4GXB | 109 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 110 |
| EI7BMB | 41 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 41 |
| EI7IG | 26 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26 |

Updates for 2009 to ei2glb@hotmail.com

Dermot EI7IX has had some good contact on 4m including EA6CA in the Balearic Islands, EA8BPX in the Canary Islands and DI2PM in Germany.

Other EI's active on 4m have been EI3GYB, EI2IP and EI7FAB

2 Metres

2m has been fairly quite this year but there has been a handful of Sporadic E's openings and now we are starting to see some Tropo with some 1000km plus QSO's possible.

Starting with my log I have worked 32 stations in July in 22 different squares and 6 DXCC, best being SV9CVY in KM25 at 3199km.

Tony EI8JK down in Cork has caught some good openings on 2 meters with notable contacts with TA3EL in Turkey, CN8LI in Morocco and ZB2B in Gibraltar.

Thanks to Tony who sent me a picture of his station and antennas. Its always nice to see what others use for there VHF activity. Tony runs a pair of 18 element M²'s on 2m, a 21 element Tonna on 70cms and a 5 element 6m Yagi .

Tom EI4DQ has also been busy on 2m with EA's CT's and lots of other EU countries seen on his reports on the make more miles on VHF website where I have gathered a lot of this data from.

Charlie EI5FK has listed many contacts with Central Europe with E7's 9A's and YT's making it as far as his QTH.

Over the last few weeks there has been some good Tropo on 2m with German, Dutch and French stations being worked in the IARU R1 VHF Contest.

Some EI's have been lucky to work the Faroe Isles on 2m. I have heard OY4TN on both 2m and 70cms but not been lucky enough to work him yet.

70cms

Not much to report on this band. I have been active for the RSGB activity contests but its hard work as most of the G stations don't point West as the don't expect much activity over here. I have managed to work G4DEZ at just over 470 kms and some GM stations around 250kms from here.

Also on a good Tropo opening the LA5UHF beacon was peaking 559 from jo28 which is 998km from my QTH. I have a very basic station on 70cms so was quite happy hearing that beacon.

That's all the band reports for this month sorry if they lacked some detail. I am using DX summit and MMM on VHF.de for the reports. Hopefully I will get some actual reports for the next edition no matter how many stations you have worked I will be very grateful for your input.

Dublin Repeaters

Now for some news of changes to some Repeaters.

Mike EI2DJ has been very busy and there is 2 new repeaters in the Dublin Area.

EI2KPR is on 145.7625 on Kippure in Co Wicklow. It requires 88.5 Hz CTCSS to open and is giving excellent coverage to Dublin and the surrounding counties.

EI7TRR is on 433.225 from Three Rock in Co Dublin and again is giving good coverage to the Dublin Area.

Mike has also upgraded the Antenna system on the EI2TRR



The EI8JK station in West Cork

145.600 Dublin repeater. The repeater is now using a twin dipole stack on the RTE mast and this has increased the coverage greatly.

We have to be very grateful to people like Mike and the others here in EI that spend lots of the free time installing and maintaining repeaters for us to use.

I look forward to working many people on the new Kippure repeater so thank you Mike for your time and effort.

Dundalk Gateway

Moving from repeaters to gateways Dundalk Amateur Radio Society have installed a new Echolink Gateway, EI2MOG, on Mount Oriel. It is on 145.2125 and requires a 88.5Hz tone to work through it.

Coverage is excellent on this and it is well worth a listen to as it does be quite busy. More information about Dundalk ARS can be found on there excellent website www.EI7DAR.com and more information about Echolink in Ireland can be found on www.echoireland.com.

Finally the IRTS 2m Counties Contest Autumn took place on Sunday the 30th August. There was quite a good turn out with a good amount of portable stations active on the day.

As usual there was a lot of counties not active but overall there seemed to be at least 25 or 26 counties active.

Anyone that took part please send in your log. The details can be found on the IRTS Website under the Contest tab.

That's all for this edition, thanks for reading. Any reports of any activity on any band above 50MHZ will be more that welcome.

Trevor, EI2GLB
ei2glb@hotmail.com

New Repeater GB3CP

A new 2 metre FM voice repeater GB3CP went on air on Saturday 5th July 2009.

It is located in south east Fermanagh Northern Ireland.
Rx 145.7375 & Tx 145.1375.

110.9 ctcss or 1750Hz tone burst

<http://www.ukrepeater.net/repeaters/gb3cp.htm>

Herbie GI6JPO

Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club



EI9E/P Top RSGB VHF/UHF Field Again

RSGB announced the results of their VHF National Field Day contest held on the first weekend in July.

A team of dedicated contesters using the callsign EI9E/P from the Wexford VHF Group, the Network Southern Area Radio Experimenters' Club and the East Cork Radio Group again finished with the highest overall score in the Open section.

The group is awarded the leading overseas entry for the RSGB contest.

The EI9E/P team this year was: EI7FJ, EI6GF, EI2FG, EI8IQ, EI5ASB, EI3JE, EI6BT, EI9HQ, G4CLA, LY3MM, EI4GZB and EI2HQ who's XYL provided the most delicious rhubarb and Bakewell tarts.

The EI9E team as well as having the highest overall score were the band leaders on 50MHz with 218 QSOs and had the best DX on 70MHz with S51DI at 1755kms.

Congratulations to the members of the three clubs involved on a huge logistical effort and we hope they get the three in a row next year.

224 entries were received by the RSGB for the field day and in their analysis they give the number of stations in the logs from each country by band.

The EI figures were as follows:

50MHz - 14: 70MHz - 3: 144MHz - 20: 432MHz - 1: 1296MHz - 2

Top Scores

| Pos | Group Name & Locator | 50 | 70 | 144 | 432 | 1,296 | Total |
|-----|--|-------|-------|-----|-------|-------|-------|
| #* | Wexford VHF Group IO62OM | 1,245 | 1,453 | 732 | 352 | 340 | 3,782 |
| 1* | Reigate ATS & Crawley ARC JO01OC | 568 | 809 | 880 | 850 | 1,000 | 3,538 |
| 2* | Windmill CG JO01LD | 1,000 | 0 | 888 | 849 | 686 | 3,423 |
| 3* | Cockenzie & Port Seton ARC IO84BT | 923 | 937 | 862 | 335 | 0 | 3,057 |
| 4 | Colchester RA JO01PU | 514 | 930 | 435 | 1,000 | 0 | 2,879 |
| 5 | Bracknell ARC & Flight Refuelling ARS IO80ST | 458 | 1,000 | 457 | 771 | 303 | 2,686 |



U.S. 500kHz experiments to expand

For the past three years, the ARRL has been conducting propagation and communication experiments on 500 kHz, under terms of an experimental license WD2XSH issued by the FCC in late 2006.

The *ARRL Letter* now reports that the FCC has expanded the size and scope of the experiment, permitting the number of authorized stations to increase from 23 to 42 and broadening the permitted frequencies from the original 505-510 kHz to 495-510 kHz.

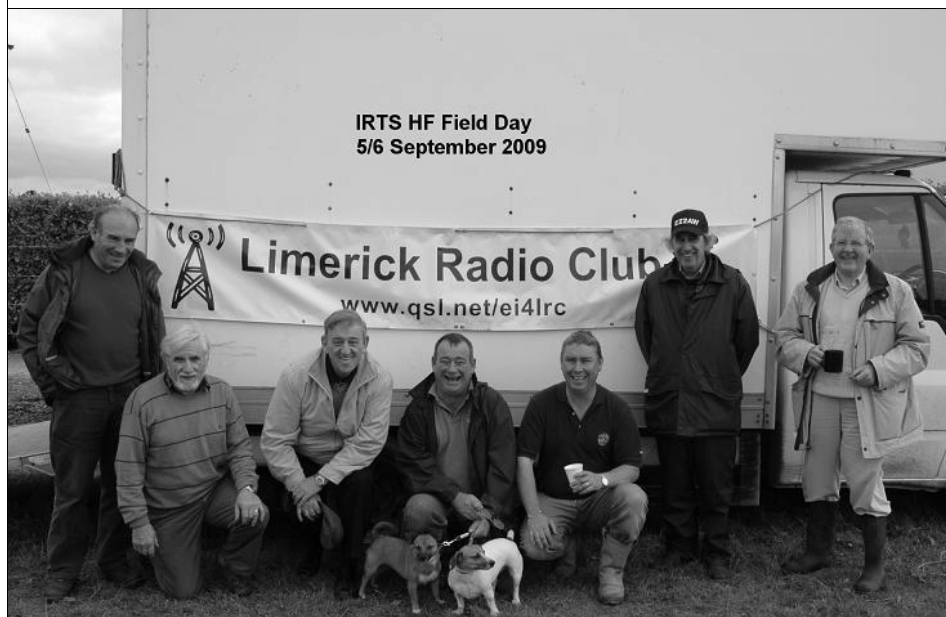
In addition, portable operation is being allowed for the first time. Coordinators say they will be avoiding operation on 500 kHz itself, leaving that frequency - which was for decades the international maritime distress frequency - open for use by "heritage stations" operating from museum ships and former shore stations.



CW Field Day 2009 at Ballinasloe

Anthony Dolan EI6GGB, Michael Burke EI4AL, Fergus Millar EI6IB, Pat O'Connor EI9HX. (Inset - Brian Canning EI8IU)

Limerick Radio Club



John EI6IW, Simon EI7ALB, Alan EI8EM, Gerry EI3JU, Ger EI4GXB, Tony EI2AW and Mike EI2IX.

IRTS SSB HF Field Day

The club participated in the SSB HF Field Day on Sat/Sun 5/6 September from a site near Croom in Co Limerick.

The club callsign EI4LRC/P was used and despite poor band conditions a large number of contacts were made over the 24 hour period.

Thanks to Ger EI4GXB for organising the event on behalf of the Committee.

Repeater

The Limerick Repeater will be undergoing maintenance in the next few weeks and may be out of commission sporadically to facilitate works being carried out.

Outages will be kept to a minimum, but please bear with us while improvements are carried out.

Limerick Radio Club have a major enhancement program planned for the repeater which involves a substantial cash outlay and users of the repeater in the region are reminded to contribute to the repeater funds which can be done by contacting the treasurer Tony Condon EI2AW at QTHR.

Mayo Radio Experimenters Network

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Mayo Radio Experimenters will be held on Wednesday October 7th at 9.30pm local time in The Welcome Inn Hotel, Castlebar. All are welcome to attend.

Radio News Broadcasts

The club transmits the IRTS News on Sunday evenings at 8pm local time, on four bands simultaneously.

The frequencies are 6 metres. on 51.450 MHz FM, on 4 metres. on 70.375 MHz FM, on 2 metres. FM on the Mayo Repeater (145.600MHz.) and on 70cms on 433.450 also on FM. Call-ins most welcome.

Annual Rally

The 2009 Mayo Rally will be held on Sunday November 22nd in Castlebar. The venue is The Welcome Inn Hotel, where the 2008 rally was held at short notice, and doors open at 11.00am.

Rally Director, Padraic Baynes, EI9JA, is now taking bookings for stands at the Rally. He can be contacted on 087 6957154. (See page 30 for accommodation details)

Galway VHF Group at Castlebar International Walking Festival

The Galway VHF Group provided AREN cover for the Castlebar International Four Day Walking Festival held over the 2nd to 5th of July.

Essentially there were two networks in operation. The walk leaders and organisers had their own radio system and the Galway VHF Group had an input to this network with their own operation on 2 metres.

For the majority of the time the operation was on the Walking Group's frequency and, should an emergency arise, the operation was dealt with by the Galway VHF Group on 2 metres. Joe, EI3IX, and Tom, EI2GP, provided cover on the walk itself and Steve, EI5DD, co-ordinated at ground level on both 2 metres and on the organisers frequency.

Tom, EI2GP also provided medical assistance along with other medical personnel on the walk itself.

Vital equipment, such as stretchers, splints, and medical supplies, were carried by volunteers on the walks. Additional medical supplies and a defibrillator were carried in the mobile control vehicle. These could be driven up to specific points at short notice in the event of an emergency. At the same time, if an accident should occur, the casualty could also be brought to specific locations for transportation to the local hospital if necessary. Any other decisions were dealt with via the radio networks and phoned into the base where necessary.

In all the activity went extremely well and the activity on the radio networks was brief but efficiently handled.

Only one emergency arose over the whole event and the casualty was brought in to the hospital within 20 minutes. Tom, EI2GP's surgery on the hilltop was relatively quiet with only one person requiring medication for an insect bite.

The Galway VHF Group have been involved with the Castlebar Walking Festival for seventeen years.

The reason they became involved in the first place was a result of an article about their HF/VHF operation from Croagh Patrick that was in one of the Echo Ireland publications earlier that year.



International Amateur Radio Union Monitoring System

with Ger McNamara EI4GXB

Welcome to the latest news from the IARU Monitoring System, and hope everyone had a nice enjoyable summer, though the WX was nothing to write home about!

I received a request from Tony Baldwin EI8JK to help in identifying QRM on 144.300MHz SSB, which made operating very difficult and at times impossible.

Tony's QTH is near Mount Gabriel and he was getting breakthrough from some aircraft frequencies. With the co-operation of the Irish Aviation Authority we were able to identify the problem and resolve it to everyone's satisfaction.

I am extremely grateful to the engineering section of the IAA for their help in this matter and look forward to working with them again should their help be required.

Intruder News from: September 6th 2009

| kHz | UTC | Date | ITU | Ident | Mode | BD | SH | Details |
|------------|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|---|
| 3560.054 | 1800 | dly | KRE | | A3E | | | BC from North Korea, fundamental |
| 3590.000 | vt | dly | E | names | USB | | | Spanish fishery, often with CRY2001 vocoder |
| 7000.000 | vt | dly | IRQ | no ITU | FSK8 | 125 | 1750 | ALE, "T1Z10" "LBOTOC" "SHDTCO" |
| 7027.500 | ady | dly | UZB | V | CW | | | Beacon "V" – possibly Tashkent??? |
| 7030.000 | 2100 | dly | BLR | | A3E | | | IM from Radio Belarus / 7210 / 7390 kHz |
| 7038.700 | ady | dly | UKR | D | CW | | | beacon "D" - Sevastopol |
| 7038.800 | ady | dly | RUS | P | CW | | | beacon "P" - Kaliningrad |
| 7038.900 | ady | dly | RUS | S | CW | | | beacon "S" - Murmansk |
| 7039.000 | ady | dly | RUS | C | CW | | | beacon "C" - Moscow |
| 7054.000 | vt | dly | RUS | | F1B | 50 | 200 | RUS MIL Moscow – morning and evening |
| 7055.500 | vt | dly | CHN | no ITU | FSK8 | 125 | 1750 | ALE, "135" "107" – PRC-PLA |
| 7089.800 | 1238 | dly | UKR | | F1C | | | WX-fax - 60 rpm – IOC 576 - Sevastopol |
| 7089.800 | 1800 | dly | TUR | | G7D | | | Link11- SLEW – West Turkey |
| 7122.000 | vt | dly | RUS | RDL | F1B | 50 | 200 | RUS Navy Kaliningrad |
| 7166.000 | vt | dly | EST | | CW | | | CW, encrypted msgs, Estonia |
| 14000.000 | 0803 | dly | POR | | DRM | | | noise shield from DRM on 13810 kHz |
| 14001.600 | vt | dly | CLN | names | U/LSB | | | Tamil fishery, also 14000 |
| 14001.800 | vt | dly | ? | no ITU | F1B | 100 | 170 | Codan, selcalls "1234" "5678" – 230° |
| 14060.000 | vt | dly | ISR | no ITU | FSK8 | 125 | 1750 | ALE, "AAA" "AA1" - ISR airforce |
| 14068.265 | 1500 | 19/07/09 | CHN | | FSK8 | 75 | 2250 | PRC4+4 / PRC-PLA - screenshot |
| 14118.000 | 1230 | 01/08/09 | LVA | | CW | | | encrypted – idents: 5NAG – 9AME |
| 14119.000 | vt | dly | FEa | no ITU | FSK8 | 125 | 1750 | ALE, "TXZ" "YW2" "YW3" – FEa? |
| 14140.000 | 1445 | dly | | | A3E | | | BC – IM-product, 2 transmissions |
| 14166.000 | vt | dly | CHN | no ITU | FSK8 | 125 | 1750 | ALE, "867" "963" - possibly PRC-PLA |
| 14192.000 | vt | vd | RUS | | F1B | 50 | 500 | RUS Navy Kaliningrad |
| 14238.510 | 1100 | vd | LBY | | F1B | 600 | 600 | DPRK-FSK600 – KRE embassy Tripoli |
| 14295.000 | 0830 | dly | RUS | | P0N | | | OTH radar "ABM2" – 50 pps - screenshot |
| 14295.153 | vt | dly | TJK | | A3E | | | 3rd from 4765 – Radio Tajikistan |
| 14328.430 | 1616 | dly | LBY | | F1B | 600 | 600 | DPRK-FSK600 – KRE embassy Tripoli |
| 14345.000 | 1052 | 05/08/09 | RUS | | P0N | | | Russian OTH Radar "ABM2" – 50 pps |
| 21001.500 | 0700 | dly | RUS | | F1B | 100 | 140 | East-Russia, system T219 |
| 29699.800 | ady | dly | I | | serial | | | Italian MIL in Brescia – Es conditions |

UTC = universal time coordinated (=GMT): ady = all day: vt = various times: dly = daily: vd = various days: date (dd.mm.yy):

IDENT = call, selcall: MODE = USB, LSB, A3E = AM, F3E = FM, F1B (= FSK), G7B, J7D: ALE = MIL-188-141A :

NWAF = North West Africa: con = continuous: ITU = ITU-abbreviation: BD = baud: SH = shift (Hz): DETAILS = observed:

details /// uniden (ui) = unidentified /// AF = Airforce /// MOI = Ministry of Interior

MOD = Ministry of Defense: MFA = Ministry of Foreign Affairs: MEa = Middle East: FEa = Far East: Eaf = East Africa:

CAf = Central Africa: CIS = Community of Independent States (earlier UDSSR): NAF = North Africa: NEu = Northern Europe:

PRC = People's Republic of China: PLA = People's Liberation Army (China): pps = pulses/second (Radar): emba = embassy:

DPRK = Democratic People Republic of North Korea: NGO = Non Governmental Organization: MOPO = Ministry of Public

Order: FSK = frequency shift keying: PSK = phase shift keying

I met with Wolf DK2OM IARUMS Co-ordinator for Region 1 at Friedrichshafen in June and briefed him on our activities within EI, and also met up with other IARUMS Co-ordinators from around the world which proved to be very fruitful.

That's it for this issue, comments/reports are welcome and I can be contacted on ei4gxb@gmail.com or Mobile 087-2532512 or at home after 1900 on 061-354922.

73, Ger EI4GXB ♦

Early days in Amateur Radio, by George Reynolds EI2F

This article was written by George EI2F – probably in the 1950s or 1960s

I am a founder member of IRTS and one of the oldest licensed and active Radio Amateurs in Ireland. My call sign is EI2F. The first Irish amateur to hold a licence was the late Colonel Dennis of Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow – EI2B. He became interested in radio after attending a lecture given by Marconi in Dublin in 1898. This lecture was given after Marconi had demonstrated the use of radio in reporting a regatta at Dun Laoghaire (or Kingstown as it was then called). The oldest amateur at the present time is Joseph Campbell, EI4B.

My interest in radio began in 1915, My father had a house telephone, communicating between one part of our home and another. This telephone was the wall type and had a small door which was locked. I was always curious to see what was inside and one day my dad forgot to lock the door and when he came in he found me standing on a chair with my head almost inside the telephone, fascinated by the maze of coils, switches etc. He was not annoyed but proceeded to explain how it worked. He promised to show me how to build a telegraph if I learned the Morse code. In time I could send and receive slowly, and I remember that the first message I sent to my father was to ask him to "send me to the pictures". I got to the pictures!

I then became curious about communicating between two points without wires and my first effort wasn't radio but really by induction. I had two large frames four feet square; one had a microphone and battery and the other frame had a telephone earpiece. I could hear speech through the wall, across the room or from one room to another – a distance of about 10 to 15 feet. During this time I was devouring all literature connected in any way with radio and at one time I built a small transmitter of the spark type and a receiver using a crystal detector. The range was then increased to 30 or 40 yards.

In 1928 I entered a radio college for training as Ship's Operator. There was a shipping slump at the time, and when I got my ticket I was on the waiting list for a job at the Marconi Company. Whilst waiting, I got a chance at radio servicing.

It was in 1932 that I first took out an amateur licence. As I had already my PMG certificate this was not difficult. In my early days, Amateur Radio had many difficulties. We had to use mostly receiving gear and home-made components in order to build our transmitters. My first transmitter was a very crude affair. I used two-volt power valves and as there was no electric light in the house at the time I had to use high-tension batteries – mostly discarded ones hooked up together. This was an expensive way of running a transmitter, as high-tension batteries did not last long. I then invested in a hand generator for the power supply. This wasn't too easy to work at first as one had to crank the generator with one hand and operate the Morse key with the other hand – both working at the same time of course!

The hand generator made a whirring noise like a vacuum cleaner. My gear was in my bedroom and my brothers who slept in the same room objected to the noise. I then had to construct an affair like a packing case with a door on it. This was 4 by 4 by 2 (feet) and I could just get inside it, close the door and operate the gear without disturbing anybody. As I had to

| | |
|--|--|
| ***** AMATEUR EXPERIMENTAL TRANSMITTING STATION, 7 Charlemont Mall, Portobello, Dublin. ***** | |
| To Radio REPORT. | Ur Stn Wkd hr on at XMITTER |
| T..... | Ck..... |
| W..... | Imp..... |
| R..... | Ant..... |
| QRH..... | RX |
| QRM..... | |
| QRN..... | |
| WX..... | |
| REMARKS..... | |
| PSE QSL direct or via I.R.I.S. | Vy best 73s G. REYNOLDS, opn. |
| ***** | |

depend on an oil-lamp for illumination I could only stand the heat for short periods, coming in and out for air.

My first contact was a Danish station and I was using very low power at the time – about two watts. Of course when the electric light arrived in the house there were no further troubles.

People often wonder why one becomes a Radio Amateur. But I think that radio provides so much interest over a very wide and varied field. One can become a Radio Amateur for the experimental side or for its social side and make real friendships in all parts of the world. Every country has its Amateur Radio organisation, and in this country we are catered for by the IRTS. This society arranges lectures, meetings, field-days and social functions throughout the year. Some people wonder how it is possible to talk to foreign amateurs who may not speak English, but there has grown up with Amateur Radio a sort of vernacular based on abbreviations, words peculiar to Ham Radio and the Q-code. This Q-code is used by ships, aircraft and commercial radio stations. The Q-code consists of groups of three letters commencing with Q. These groups represent complete sentences and with a knowledge of them quite a lot of information can be exchanged between two amateurs although unable to speak each other's language.

George Reynolds EI2F was born in Dublin in 1901. Although he qualified as a Ship's Radio Operator he did not go to sea. He worked as an electrical engineer in a printing company. George became a silent key in 1966.

Our thanks to his granddaughter Sarah who sent the above article to us. She came across it while researching her family's history. If you have any information about George, please contact Joe EI7GY at 01-285 4250 or jryan@iol.ie

Outgoing QSL Bureau

Please mail your cards directly to the
Outgoing Bureau Manager:

**Anthony Baldwin EI8JK,
Rathlin, Kilcrohane, Co. Cork.**

ei8jk@amsat.org



Receive Only Satellite Ground Station

By John Ronan EI7IG

jpronans@gmail.com

Even before PCSAT2 [1] was deployed, radio amateurs were invited to help with reception of PCSAT2 telemetry along with solar cell data [2].

I attempted this initially back in August 2005.

I forgot about it for a while until late September when, Andrew Rich, VK4TEC, posted a script to the amsat-bb list and a follow on script he put on his website [3], showing basic doppler corrections for his Kenwood TM-D700. That started me thinking.

Firstly, I already had a Linux server running 24/7 so I could use that for receiving and decoding data, secondly I had a radio sitting idle while I was in work or asleep every day. So why not set the equipment up to work autonomously while I was not at the controls.

My own radio is a Yaesu [4] FT-847 which is computer controllable via its CAT port. I had used Hamlib [5] from a previous project, to control an Icom PCR 1000 [3]. Sure enough, it supported the FT-847, so I installed it.

Satellite Tracking

Andrew's Script used Predict [6] to supply the doppler correction factor required, so I downloaded, compiled and installed Predict.

As I wished to run the tracking software as a 'service' I chose to run it on an unused tty. After some trial and error I managed to get it working by modifying the /etc/event.d/tty6 file to read

```
##/etc/event.d/tty6
# tty6 - getty
#
# This service maintains a getty on tty6 from the point the system is
# started until it is shut down again.
```

```
start on runlevel-2
start on runlevel-3
stop on runlevel-4
stop on runlevel-5
```

```
stop on shutdown
```

```
respawn /usr/local/bin/run_predict
```

And the run_predict script contains

```
##run_predict
/bin/su - predict -s /bin/bash -c "/usr/bin/predict -s < /dev/tty6
> /dev/tty6 "
```

I created a specific Predict user rather than allowing the program to run as root. Allowing programs to unnecessarily run as root is frowned upon and generally considered bad practice.

Now that we have a Predict server running, it needs to be kept up to date. Inside in the 'clients' subdirectory is a directory with a name of kep_reload. The 'README' file therein says:



"kep_reload" is a simple utility that forces an immediate reload of PREDICT's Keplerian database through a socket connection while PREDICT is running in server mode. It is especially useful in environments where PREDICT runs continuously, and periodic Keplerian element updates are made outside of PREDICT, such as through scripts run through a crontab.

The "keupdate" script found in this directory is an example of a Keplerian element update script that can be run on an automated basis through a crontab. It is designed to be placed in your home directory under a subdirectory called "cronjobs". It downloads Keplerian orbital data from www.celestrak.com using the HTTP protocol. (The "wget" utility, available from the Free Software Foundation, is required, and is included in many Linux distributions.)

Type crontab -e to edit your crontab. Simply add the following entry:

```
0 8 * * * keupdate
```

Perfect for what I needed. So following the instructions I now had a satellite tracking engine that was automatically kept up-to-date.

Radio Control

Basically I used the Hamlib Hamlib library that comes with the distribution. Along with a modified version of Andrews script [7].

Radio Modem

I used the soundmodem [8] version that was available on the distribution. At the moment I'm using Ubuntu 8.04.3 LTS. [9] My configuration looks like this:

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<modem>
<configuration name="test">
<chaccess txdelay="200" slottime="100" ppersist="64" full-
dup="1" txtail="20"/>
<audio type="soundcard" device="/dev/dsp1" halfdup="1" cap-
turechannelmode="Left"/>
<ptt file="none" hamlib_model="" hamlib_params=""/>
<channel name="Channel 0">
<mod mode="fsk" bps="9600" f0="1200" f1="2200"
diffenc="1" filter="df9ic/g3ruh"/>
<demod mode="fsk" bps="9600" filter="rootraisedcosine"/>
<pkt mode="MKISS" ifname="sm0" hwaddr="EI7IG-3"
```

```
ip="10.0.0.1" netmask="255.255.255.0" broad-
cast="10.0.0.255"/>
</channel>
<channel name="Channel 1">
<mod mode="afsk" bps="1200" f0="1200" f1="2200"
diffdec="1"/>
<demod mode="afsk" bps="1200" f0="1200" f1="2200"
diffdec="1"/>
<pkt mode="MKISS" ifname="sm1" hwaddr="EI7IG-4"
ip="10.0.0.1" netmask="255.255.255.0" broad-
cast="10.0.0.255"/>
</channel>
</configuration>
</modem>
```

It is receive only, so I'm not using any PTT line. Also you can see that I'm using /dev/dsp1. The second soundcard in the computer. To bring up the soundmodem, I open a terminal and run (as root) soundmodem -v 9. Immediately, some multicast packets get sent to the port so I issue the following commands

```
ifconfig sm0 -multicast
ifconfig sm1 -multicast
```

AX.25 Configuration

```
# /etc/ax25/axports
```

```
#
```

```
# The format of this file is:
```

```
#
```

```
# name callsign speed paclen window description
```

```
#
```

```
9k6 EI7IG-3 9600 128 1 9k6 port
```

```
1k2 EI7IG-4 1200 128 1 1k2 port
```

```
1200 EI7IG-1 57600 255 7 4m Winlink Port
```

```
tmd7 EI7IG-2 57600 255 7 TM-D710 APRS
```

That is pretty much all there is to it. I use Xastir[10] as a general APRS program and it will also I-gate most Satellite traffic. Using an Omnidirectional Vertical antenna, I regularly receive packet data from the International Space Station.

At the moment there is a pair of temporary satellites in orbit that were launched from STS-127. These are known as the Atmospheric Neutral Density Experiment[11] and I occasionally can receive a packet or two from one of them (POLLUX).

- [1] <http://web.usna.navy.mil/bruninga/pcsat2.html> PCSAT2 Design Page
- [2] <http://web.usna.navy.mil/bruninga/pec/pc2ops.html> PCSAT2 Operations Webpage
- [3] www.tech-software.net VK4TEC's Homepage
- [4] <http://www.yaesu.com> Yaesu
- [5] <http://hamlib.sourceforge.net> Ham Radio Control Libraries
- [6] <http://www.qsl.net/kd2bd/predict.html> Predict Satellite Tracking Software
- [7] http://www.ei7ig.org/predict_control.txt predict_control.pl
- [8] <http://www.baycom.org/~tom/ham/soundmodem/> Multi-platform Soundcard Packet Modem
- [9] <http://www.ubuntu.com> Ubuntu Linux
- [10] <http://www.xastir.org> Xastir
- [11] <https://goby.nrl.navy.mil/ANDE/Main.html> Atmospheric Neutral Density Experiment
- [12] <http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/ariss/index.cgi> Amateur Radio Stations heard via ISS
- [13] <http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/raw.cgi?call=pollux-1> Raw Data from POLLUX ♦



Flying the Mayo flag at the recent Cork rally was the Mayo Rally Director Padraic Baynes EI9JA with daughter Shauna EI1588



Dave EI9FBB and daughter with Thos EI2JD at the IRTS Stand at the Cork Rally

Emergency Communications

By Laurent Schoummacker, EI9JV

ei9jv@aren.ie

Glen of Aherlow Walking Festival

The Glen of Aherlow Walking Festival '09 took place in Tipperary's Galtee Mountains on the weekend of 29 May to 1 June 2009. AREN was again asked to provide communications, with an 'A' walk for very experienced walkers, a 'B' walk for the experienced and two 'C' walks for regular walkers. The weather that weekend was almost perfect - cool in the morning rising to about 25°C in the early afternoon with mostly cloudless skies. This no doubt contributed to the large turnout of walkers - 281 on Saturday and 210 on Sunday.

AREN's Mobile Command Post trailer arrived with John EI7IG Saturday at about 0830 at the Festival's base.

John EI2JB, John EI2GN, Eddie EI3FBB and Tim EI5GPB met at the MCP to get it ready for operation. After getting the trailer level, the team set about to get two antennas erected for 2m (144.525MHz) and the PMR frequency in use by the walk leaders. This was accomplished using two drive-on antenna bases and telescoping poles.

Mains power was supplied by the nearby Moroney's Pub (in Lisvernane) to the MCP's new 12V power distribution panel which can also use battery and/or solar panel to power permanently-mounted rigs.

At 0900 PMR radios were provided to walk leader and instruction on how to use them was given by John, EI7IG.



John EI2GN, John EI2JB and Paul EI3ENB started to take position on the walk, making sure that at least one station would be able to work any PMR radio from each of the walks and relay messages as needed to the MCP for further communication to festival base.

Eddie EI3FBB served as shadow to festival leader Helen Morrissey, and Tim EI5GPB served as net control backed by John EI7IG.

Aside from clearing up the inevitable mismatch of registered numbers, communicated from festival base, with the numbers actually counted at the start point, there was little activity at the start of both days. Radio checks were made among AREN members and with the walk leaders before the walks started

and periodically after that, this to get a position update.

As the walks neared their destinations and in some cases with walkers spread out for a considerable distance, radio contact enabled scheduling buses to collect them with minimal delay. On Sunday, the same routine of re-erecting antennas, etc. in the morning went more quickly.

The 'A' walk was starting from well to the East side of the Galtees, so cover to the South was needed. At one point in the early afternoon, an asthma sufferer on 'B' walk was unable to locate medication, shortly thereafter we were able to communicate to festival base that he had located it.

Also that afternoon, both 'A' walk and 'B' walk (in two very different locations) split into two groups with fast walkers in each group going ahead of the others. This made for some initial confusion as to the numbers in each group, and of course there was no longer the usual leader at the front and sweeper at the end as each walk had only two radios. However, all were accounted for in the end. Remote stations were stood down in order and, with all walkers accounted for.

It was a good event, and the festival organizers were very appreciative of AREN's contribution. (Tim EI2KA)

80m Counties Contest

In June the 80 Meter County Contest took place where there too a few representatives from AREN took part:

In the Northern hemisphere, on or around the 21st of June we experience the longest day of the year with the sun raising at before 0500 and setting after 2100. However, it all depends on where you sit on earth, for other parts, in the south pole for example things are a little different with no daylight at this time of the year. This year, June 21st was also the day of the IRTS 80 Meter counties contest with around eighty stations participating from twenty-eight counties.

AREN was using EI0RTS and transmitting from the Civil Defense Head Office at Roscrea operated by Ger EI4GXB and Keith EI4JM with Paul EI2CA and Gerry EI8CC acting as Hosts and Seamus EI8BP as PRO.



AREN's purpose was to demonstrate the national and international communications capability using amateur radio equipment. Visiting the station were representatives from the Departments of Communications, Defense, Foreign Affairs, Civil Defense and Emergency Planning.

From locations around the country AREN stations were relaying message in the IARU format, Tim EI5GPB, Charlie EI8JB and Laurent EI9JV were among them, also Paul EI3ENB was demonstrating low power portable station from Kilkenny. ATV and Field Day operation was being demonstrated by Thos EI2JD and Dundalk ARC from Clougherhead, Co. Louth. Other well known Irish DXer's assisting with the International Communications aspect of the demonstration include John EI7BA, Dave EI9FBB, Adrian EI8CE & Declan EI9FVB. Messages were received from both ends of the country only thirty five minutes after the contest had begun.

As part of the International communications demonstration 20 stations were worked on 20m including Canada and Israel. Conditions were excellent with no noise on the band.

Antenna for this demonstration was a 20m wire dipole at 6m high, just to show the capability of simple equipment and antennas.

We also had other EI DXers call EI0HQ to report what international stations they had worked during the hour.

This was impressive with propagation routes to Asia, Central and South America, Canada, North Africa and Europe.

The stations call signs were displayed as an overlay on a rotating Google Map which was excellent and a must for future demo/special event station stations.

The 80m Contest ran very well we worked 70 stations in 26 Counties, though we heard that 28 at least were active.

Visit to New York by our AREN National coordinator:

On a recent trip to New York, John, EI7IG, met with Charles J. Hargrove, N2NOV. NYC ARECS/RACES Citywide Radio Officer/Skywarn Co-ordinator, and his wife Karen, N2ZYF, to discuss various aspects of Emergency Communications. Charles was involved in the immediate aftermath of 9/11 where the Office of Emergency Management requested that their organisation provided communications for the Red Cross. The wide ranging discussion covered all aspects of emergency communications.

Charles, gave great insight into how their Emcomm Group operates from an organisational, training and operational perspective.

John, EI7IG related how AREN as developed over recent years, and has engaged in demonstrations, exercises, and indeed some joint events with other organisations.

Discussions included the APRS and voice repeater networks, their use in AREN events, the recent donation of the trailer and the ongoing work to convert it for use as a Mobile Command Post. It is planned to keep the communications links open for further exchange of information in relation to Emergency Communications.

Interestingly Charles and his partner have roots in the Waterford and New Ross area and were in Ireland earlier this year. ♦

‘Radio Fun’

Peter Mac Dougall, MCIJ, EI-299/G7VEW

“We are the Ovaltineys,
Little Girls and Boys;
Make your requests; we’ll not refuse you,
We are here just to amuse you.
Would you like a song or story,
Will you share our joys?
At games and sports we’re more than keen;
No merrier children could be seen,
Because we all drink Ovaltine,
We’re happy Girls and Boys!”

So sang the young students of The Italia Conti Stage School, on Radio Luxembourg, on the big-signal long wave service every Sunday afternoon, from 1935 until the outbreak of WW2.

Then Lord Haw-Haw took over the frequency with something rather different!

These kids were the first radio children’s’ entertainers, heard long before ‘Uncle Mac’s Children’s Hour on the BBC Home Service. They did indeed sing songs, tell stories and cracked some of the worst jokes ever told, to an audience of 5 million listeners, and all in the name of a hot malted milk drink called Ovaltine.

‘The Ovaltineys’ was a sponsored programme; the first boys who listened-in would later go marching off to war singing the theme tune and those that returned proved a good enough ‘fan base’ to revive the show after hostilities ceased. Medium wave ‘208’ brought it back; turned it into a popular children’s’ club, with its own badge and secret signs, announced in a cultured deep voice by the anonymous ‘Chief Ovaltiney’. Rather than give his identity away this former Army officer retired from broadcasting and handed his mug to Morcambe and Wise.

(Haw-Haw faced a firing Squad as a traitor spy from Horlicks.)

A book of bedtime stories and a weekly comic were issued, both are now valuable collector’s items, as is the 1975 re-release, re-mastered original theme tune on a 7” 45rpm record, for those who had worn-out or broken their old 78.

The ‘B’ side was a rollicking Ovaltineys version of, “Wish Me Luck as You Wave Me Goodbye” – a stirring ditty of WW1 vintage that had cheered-up the departing Tommies again in the ‘forties; crooned by Vera Lynn waving a handkerchief and encouraging her departing audience to sing-along and say bye-bye to Bovril.

Is there a market anywhere on radio nowadays for children’s programming?

Probably not; TV took care of their needs with ‘Blue Peter’ (no relation) and they progressed to X boxes and ‘game-boys’. (Also no relation!) The main point is that as kids grow up they become more sophisticated and leave their old radio fun behind.

For those of us who later became radio enthusiasts The Ovaltineys were the greatest!

“Go - Ovaltineys!” -- “Yo! Respect! Ovaltineys!”

I still drink it at bedtime, but with a large tot of brandy.

73 de ‘The Teenage Pensioner’

(In a later war American soldiers sang, ‘M-I-C-K-E-Y... M-O-U-S-E’. They’d never heard of Ovaltine.)

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group EI2GEO, Copper Coast Geopark Special Event Station.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group (SEARG) operated the special event station EI2GEO from Tankardstown, Bonmahon on the Copper Coast Geopark in Co. Waterford over the weekend of the 23rd and 24th of May as part of the Geopark Communications Weekend and is run in conjunction with European Geoparks Week.

The Copper Coast is an outdoor geology museum with geological heritage that reflects a variety of environments under which the area has evolved over the last 460 million years. Sedimentary and volcanic rocks illustrate the closure of the Iapetus Ocean, the resulting volcanic activity, evidence of the collision of two continents leading to the creation of Ireland and finally the effects of glaciation from the Ice Age. Cross-sections of these are exposed on the many spectacular cliffs along the Co. Waterford coastline.

Saturday morning saw the arrival of the camper van with Jim EI8IG. Very heavy rain, which lasted for about an hour slowed down the set-up of the station but once the sun came out, EI2GEO was basked in glorious summer weather for the rest of the weekend.

Operators were, Jim EI8IG, Francis EI5GOB, Declan EI5GRB, John EI8JA, John EI7IG and Mick EI3IQ and we also had a few visitors throughout the weekend.

Although band conditions were bad, a number of very enjoyable QSOs were had and Saturday night saw some relaxed 80m QSOs and those staying on the 'night shift' enjoyed a few beers to round off the day.

Sunday produced some reasonably good operation on 80 and 20 metres, which continued throughout most of the day, and a

few of the other Geopark stations were contacted before the dismantling of the station.

SEARG would like to thank everyone who participated, provided equipment, erected antennas, those who visited over the weekend, the Copper Coast Geopark management and notably Jim Farrell, EI8IG who supplied a camper van and John EI7IG who provided an FT-1000 MP.

A very successful Geopark weekend



A view of the old mine buildings at Tankardstown. The VHF/UHF antenna can be seen in the background.



Francis EI5GOB operating EI2GEO with Declan EI5GRB looking after the logging



The entrance of the site with the SEARG banner on display.



The view along the coast from Tankardstown.

was enjoyed by all involved and South Eastern Amateur Radio Group are looking forward to taking part again next year.

The clubs web site is at www.searg.com

EI0A - Clare Island, Mayo - June 3rd 1974.



Back: SWL EI-400, EI4DC, EI9BG, EI5AJ, EI2CA, EI8CC, EI2CN, EI7CC, EI4BK, EI9AD, (--). **Front:** EI6CB, SWL Tom Corry, EI3AV, EI2CL.

Another Amateur Radio First.

Aeronautical Mobile from the Zeppelin Airship at Friedrichshafen

On Sunday June 28th, 2009, Amateur radio station DL0ZZF/Aeronautical Mobile made the first ever radio contacts from the Zeppelin airship which was flying over Friedrichshafen, Germany.

The operator Hans Schwartz DK5JI had the equipment installed in the Zeppelin for the event, having carried out EMC tests in advance of the day, to ensure no interference with the onboard electronics.

Hans Schwartz works at the University of Magdeburg where amongst many other activities they do technical translations for the Zeppelin company.

This activity was a major factor in his getting the permission to operate the Amateur Radio station on a special flight.

Hans visited the B.A.R.C. club of Ireland at the Friedrichshafen Hamtronic Show on Saturday June 27th, and invited the EI ops present to join in the event.

At 08.15 hrs the next morning, in a top-floor room at our hotel, we watched the Zeppelin ascending from beside the hangar near Friedrichshafen airport and immediately heard the CQ call on 145.550 MHz and the resulting pileup as stations responded from all over Germany.

Aidan EI5HW called in, using the callsign DL/EI2AIR and got an immediate response from Hans. His contact was followed in quick succession by Sean DL/EI7CV, Gerry DL/EI9DZ, Dave DL/EI7GEB and Kim DL/G7AIE who was there with us representing B.A.R.C. and M.S.A.R.S.

In the space of 18 minutes Hans made 92 contacts. A few hours later, he came back to the B.A.R.C. stand to exchange QSL cards. He hopes that it may be possible to repeat the operation sometime in 2010.

It was a great moment for us who are mostly seasoned operators, but a very special moment for Dave EI7GEB who is a relative newcomer to the hobby.

Sadly due to licence limitations, Jacqui 2E0FQV who was also present, was unable to participate in the pleasure.

Sean Linehan, EI7CV.



Outgoing Bureau QSL Cards

Do you really know if the package of cards you mailed to the outgoing QSL Manager ever arrived?

The following is a message from the Outgoing QSL Manager.

I have some news that really ought to be publicised as I'm sure nobody gives a second thought to their QSL cards once they post them.

As a coincidence Sean Carvin, EI2CR, mentioned that he had posted 400 QSL cards to me for sorting and dispatch, that was on 26th of May and they didn't arrive. Sean says that the package was well sealed and had my address and his return address clearly written on it.

He has of course filled in the forms and I have interrogated Bantry sorting office, but it seems they are all lost. The thing is, nobody has any idea if this is a one off or if it has happened before. I have no idea that packets of cards are on their way until they arrive, and the sender usually has no idea if they have arrived unless there is a problem card that I need more info on ... and then only if I know the senders email address.

As the loss of a packet of cards is a major disaster for the sender (as EI2CR will attest), but of course rather insignificant for An Post, I thought that if members would like to email me on ei8jk@amsat.org when they post their cards, I am more than willing to email them back when they arrive safely.

Thanks and 73.
Tony, EI8JK.

Radio News Deadline

Noon on Thursdays

News Editor

Charlie Carolan EI8JB

Input for the radio news should be sent via e-mail to:

charlie.carolan@ gmail.com.

or newsteam@irts.ie

or by phone to 087-6265418

Building the KRC-2 Super Regenerative Receiver

By Steve Wright EI5DD

Having read about the Kit Radio Company in Practical Wireless, I decided to build their KRC-2 Receiver as small project for the spare time.

For £54.99 it seemed good value and it covered 1 - 30 MHz.

The KRC-2 is actually a superhet receiver using the Regenerative Stage as the I.F. amplifier.

This stage is tuned to approximately 10.7 MHz.

Using the regenerative receiver in this manner gives the advantage of very high gain and, as the frequency is fixed, the regeneration point is virtually unaffected by the receiver frequency control. The mixer/oscillator is built around a BF988 Dual gate FET and some of the components were surface mounted to reduce hand capacity effects. Simple passive filters remove unwanted image frequencies.

As is illustrated, the printed circuit boards are of good quality with all the components supplied and the case also.

(The tools were not part of the kit).

A well thought out set of easy to follow constructional details were supplied with plenty of diagrams to guide one through the building of the receiver.

The Oscillator/Mixer Board was secured to the case by the shaft nuts of the rotary switch and the potentiometer.

The Regen board is mounted vertically in the centre of the case via grooves in the case, and wiring is colour coded from one board to the other.

Connections for the antenna, earth were then made to the back of the case.

Having thoroughly checked the wiring, initial switch on revealed a terrible silence. Now there are only three devices that could be at fault; more likely to be the BC109 or the LM386.

Closer inspection and a transistor tester revealed that the BC109 was soldered incorrectly. Having rectified that problem there was sound - albeit a rough rasping noise but it indicated that something was working.

The first instruction to set up was to connect an antenna and set the dial to 1 MHz, set the Regen control to fully clockwise po-



sition and adjust a preset on the Regen Board until the receiver is just oscillating. The next stage was to locate and beat with a broadcast station and then lower the regeneration control until the beat note stops, and then re-peak the tuning. Naturally it is necessary to give a slight adjustment to the regeneration control to achieve maximum gain. Too much and the set will oscillate and the regeneration has to be backed off a little.

Initial tests were done using the inverted-L antenna which was tuned by an SGC tuner located at its base at the bottom of the garden.

Touching the centre pin of the PL259 to the antenna tag on the back of the KRC-2 and the connection of an earth produced plenty of signals on the Medium wave band. Slight re-adjustment of the regeneration control made all the difference to the gain.

Unlike other regenerative receivers there was no necessity to make major adjustments as one tunes across a band as the regeneration is performed at the IF frequency of 10.7 MHz.

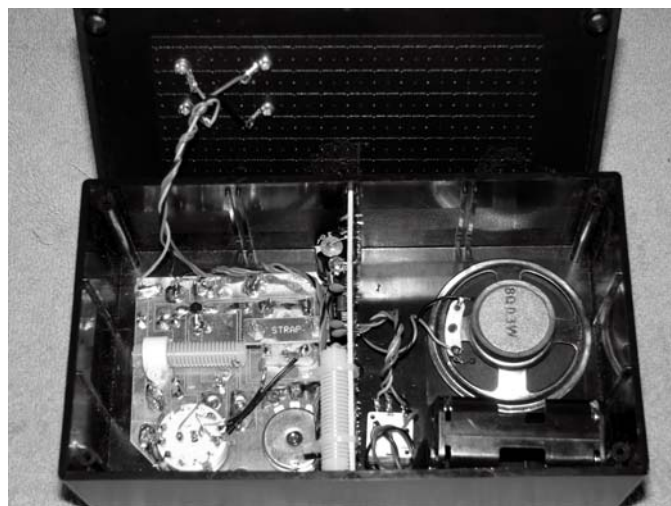
A good clean CW note was received from the bottom end of 80 metres and tuning further into the phone section revealed good clear SSB signals. Minor adjustments to the Regeneration and fine tuning were made.

A wide variety of CW, RTTY and Broadcast stations were received on higher frequencies. The receiver was tuned across 80 metres at night time and plenty of SSB signals were demodulated.

During the daytime 40 and 20 metres produced great results.

All in all this is a sensitive set, great fun to build and I am sure it would not be beyond the scope of anyone new to the hobby.

The Kit Radio Company produce other receiver kits and also a QRP transmitter, the KRC-X-1 which is a, crystal controlled, 2 watt QRP transmitter capable of operating on 7, 10 and 14 MHz to complement the receiver project.



Updates and enquiries to Thos EI2JD at thoscaffrev@hotmail.com

| DXCC Confirmed | | | Worked All States | | |
|----------------|--------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------|----------|
| 202 | EI7BA (+4) | Approved | 50 | EI4CF | Approved |
| 173 | EI3IO (+6) | | 50 | EI9FBB | Approved |
| 162 | EI4CF (+5) | Approved | 50 | EI9FBB | Approved |
| 155 | EI2JD (+4) | Approved | 50 | EI9HX | |
| 152 | EI9FBB (+4) | Approved | 49 | EI9HQ | |
| 150 | EI9FBB (+10) | Approved | 49 | EJ9HQ | |
| 147 | EI6IZ (+9) | Approved | 47 | EI3IO (+1) | |
| 140 | EI7CC | | 47 | EI6HB | |
| 144 | EI0CZ (+15) | | 45 | EI2JD (+4) | |
| 148 | EI9HX (+10) | | 45 | EI4BZ | |
| 112 | EI3GYB (+6) | | 45 | EI4IS (+1) | |
| 108 | EI6AL (+2) | Approved | 45 | EI8GP | |
| 108 | EI9FVB (+4) | AG | 44 | EI5GM | |
| 104 | EI4GXB (+22) | | 44 | EI7BA | |
| 102 | EI6JK | | 43 | EI7JN | |
| 101 | EI9JU (New) | | 41 | EI9JU (New) | |
| 98 | EI4BZ | | 40 | EI4GNB (New) | |
| 98 | EI9HQ (+1) | Approved | 40 | EI9O (+15) | |
| 97 | EI6HB | AG | 38 | EI5IF | |
| 97 | EI8IU | Bronze AG | 37 | EI7DAR (New) | |
| 96 | EI8FH (+3) | Approved | 36 | EIOW | |
| 92 | EI5IF | AG | 36 | EI9HW | |
| 92 | EJ9HQ | Approved | 35 | EI7CC | |
| 91 | EI1DG (+7) | AG | 32 | EI6JK | |
| 86 | EI9ES | Approved | 30 | EI9ES | |
| 85 | EI4GNB (+12) | Approved | 30 | EI4GMB | |
| 83 | EIOW (+4) | | 30 | EI4GXB | |
| 81 | EI5GM (+3) | | 29 | EI9FVB | |
| 81 | EI7DAR (+2) | | 26 | EI6AL | |
| 77 | EI7IX (+4) | Approved | 26 | EI9JM | |
| 77 | EI9O (+7) | AG | 3 | EI4DIB (New) | |
| 73 | EI3HA (+2) | Approved | 2 | EI7IW | |
| 71 | EJ3HA | Gold AG | | | |
| 71 | EI8JR (+3) | AG | | | |
| 69 | EI2II | Approved | | | |
| 69 | EI8GP | | | | |
| 68 | EI/DH0GSU/p | | | | |
| 67 | EI4HH | Approved | | | |
| 67 | EI4HQ | AG | | | |
| 67 | EI9CF | Silver AG | | | |
| 65 | EI7M | | | | |
| 65 | EI8DD | Approved | | | |
| 65 | EI8DL | Approved | | | |
| 61 | EI4IS | | | | |
| 60 | EI7JN | Silver | | | |
| 60 | EI9JM | AG | | | |
| 59 | EI5GJB (+3) | Approved | | | |
| 58 | EI6IL | Approved | | | |
| 58 | EI9JF | | | | |
| 57 | EI7BFB (+45) | Approved | | | |
| 57 | EI8JK (+7) | AG | | | |
| 56 | EI7BMB | AG | | | |
| 54 | EI7IQ | AG | | | |
| 53 | EI6ARB (+1) | Approved | | | |
| 52 | EI2GLB (+16) | AG | | | |
| 52 | EI6CPB | Approved | | | |
| 50 | EI6AK | AG | | | |
| 49 | EI2FSB | Approved | | | |
| 48 | EI8IQ | | | | |
| 47 | EI5GSB (+3) | Approved | | | |
| 43 | EI7IM | | | | |
| 43 | EI7IS | Bronze AG | | | |
| 42 | EI1429 (+15) | Bronze | | | |
| 42 | EI5IX | Silver AG | | | |
| 41 | EI3EBB | | | | |
| 41 | EI4JR (New) | | | | |
| 40 | EI4GMB (+8) | | | | |
| 39 | EI6IF | AG | | | |
| 39 | EI9EW | Approved | | | |
| 34 | EI1KARG | | | | |
| 34 | EI3JB | AG | | | |
| 33 | EI1571 | Approved | | | |
| 32 | EI7GM (+1) | Approved | | | |
| 32 | EI90GPO | AG | | | |
| 28 | EI6GGB (New) | | | | |
| 27 | EI3GDB | AG | | | |
| 25 | EI2FS | | | | |
| 24 | EI7IW | Silver AG | | | |
| 20 | EI0CPL | | | | |
| 20 | EI2IV | | | | |
| 19 | EI4DIB (New) | | | | |
| 18 | EI4HX | | | | |

(as at September 15th 2009)

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mixed | 265 EI6FR (+10) | 17m |
| 353 EI8H (+1) | 229 EI4BZ (+9) | 230 EI7BA |
| 350 EI6S | 219 EI9FBB (+11) | 189 EI9FBB (+5) |
| 347 EI7CC | 210 EI6IZ (+13) | 107 EI3IO (New) |
| 341 EI6FR | 184 EI2JD | 102 EI6IZ (New) |
| 340 EI2GS | 178 EI9JF | |
| 321 EI3IO | 134 EI8IU | 15m |
| 306 EI2HY | 109 EI2IH | 204 EI7BA |
| 305 EI7BA | 109 EI4HM | 188 EI3IO (New) |
| 284 EI9FBB (+2) | 107 EI/GM4ARJ | 181 EI9FBB (+7) |
| 269 EI2CR | 107 EI7GY (New) | 171 EI4BZ (+7) |
| 262 EI2GX | 106 EI1DG | 136 EI2JD |
| 253 EI2JD | 100 EI6AL | 109 EI8GS |
| 248 EI9JF | | 108 EI3GV |
| 240 EI4BZ (+8) | RTTY/Digital | 103 EI9FVB (New) |
| 225 EI6IZ (+14) | 108 EI6FR (+3) | |
| 210 EI6IL (New) | 102 EI6HB | 12m |
| 205 EI5GM | | 147 EI7BA |
| 189 EI8IU | Satellite - No Entry | 100 EI9FBB (New) |
| 152 EI6HB | | |
| 141 EI9O | 160m | 10m |
| 134 EI9HQ | 195 EI3IO (+11) | 250 EI3IO (New) |
| 128 EI8HA | 131 EI7BA | 173 EI7BA |
| 121 EI7GY (New) | | 156 EI4BZ (+22) |
| 103 EI6AL | 80m | 144 EI7GL |
| 200 EI9FVB (+97) | 298 EI6S (New) | 131 EI2JD |
| 100 EI4GXB | 184 EI7BA | 128 EI4GK |
| | 171 EI9FBB (+2) | 119 EI9FBB (+1) |
| | 126 EI3IO (+41) | 104 EI8GS |
| Phone | 110 EI4BZ (+6) | |
| 345 EI7CC | 108 EI2JD | 6m |
| 347 EI6S (+3) | | 157 EI3IO (+2) |
| 338 EI2GS | | 111 EI7GL |
| 334 EI8EM | 40m | 101 EI3EBB |
| 331 EI8AR | 210 EI7BA | |
| 317 EI6FR | 204 EI9FBB (+1) | 2m No entry |
| 300 EI8AU | 167 EI3IO (New) | |
| 277 EI3GV | 145 EI2JD | QRP DXCC |
| 272 EI9FBB (+1) | 129 EI4BZ (+17) | No Entry |
| 256 EI7BA | 127 EI6IZ (+14) | |
| 253 EI4GK | 117 EI7GL | DXCC Challenge |
| 234 EI2JD | | 1,722 EI7BA |
| 229 EI8GS | 30m | 1,521 EI7CC |
| 213 EI7GL | 215 EI3IO (New) | 1,464 EI9FBB |
| 200 EI6IL (New) | 187 EI7BA | (+52) |
| 200 EI9FVB (+97) | 133 EI9FBB (+3) | 1,699 EI3IO (+310) |
| 193 EI9JF | 132 EI6IZ (+20) | 1,258 EI6FR (+83) |
| 186 EI7II | 110 EI4BZ (+4) | 1,030 EI2JD |
| 177 EI9FE | | |
| 167 EI4BZ (+20) | 20m | DXCC Honor Roll |
| 165 EI2CH | 262 EI9FBB (+3) | |
| 135 EI8IU | 245 EI7BA | Mixed |
| 129 EI9HQ | 243 EI3IO (New) | 338 EI6FR/341 |
| 119 EI4HH | 182 EI2JD | 335 EI2GS/340 |
| 114 EI4EX | 170 EI4BZ (+20) | 335 EI6S/350 |
| 108 EI6HB | 150 EI9JF | 335 EI7CC/347 |
| 105 EI9HX | 139 EI9FVB (New) | |
| 105 EI1CS | 135 EI6IZ (+14) | Phone |
| 101 EI3IP | 111 EI8GS | 333 EI2GS/338 |
| | 110 EI3GV | 333 EI7CC/345 |
| CW | 105 EI9HQ | 334 EI6S/347 |
| 314 EI7CC | | 329 EI8EM/334 |
| 285 EI7BA | | |



Contest Corner

by IRTS Contest Manager Thos Caffrey EI2JD

The IRTS Contests are now over for another year, you can find the results of the field days on this page and the 80m Summer Counties results on page 30. Congrats to the winners and many thanks to all who sent in their logs.

IARU HF World Championship

The *IARU HF World Championship* Contest is held each year on the second weekend of July.

One section in this contest is for the National Head Quarter Stations only. The HQ call for EI is EI0HQ which has been activated over the past 2 years by yours truly but only in the Single Op section. This year it was decided to try Multi Op which required a station on all the contest bands on both CW and SSB. That means 6 separate stations on SSB + 6 on CW adding up to 12 contest stations. This was a considerable challenge to achieve seeing as we do not have many contest stations setup in Ireland. The idea was aired at an IRTS Committee meeting where Pat EI9HX and Dave EI4BZ became very interested. Then followed many phone calls and emails between us to find the required stations and the operators to man them. We approached the clubs and some of the most prolific DX'ers and testers in the country.

The response was great which led to the challenge of deciding who did which band and mode.

The allocation was given to the best setup station for a particular band/mode.

EI0HQ for 2009

| | | | |
|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| 10CW | EI5DI | 10SSB | SEARG |
| 15CW | EI4CF | 15SSB | EI2JD |
| 20CW | EI6FR | 20SSB | EI9HX |
| 40CW | EI8IU | 40SSB | EI9HQ |
| 80CW | EI2CA | 80SSB | EI9FBB |
| 160CW | EI2JD | 160SSB | EI4GXB |

Band conditions were terrible on 10, 15 and 160 but the other bands were very busy. The EI0HQ log contained 212 HQ stations, 102 Zones and 4,648 QSO's giving a total of 4,407,304 points.

It was noted that more operators were needed to keep the stations on air for the full 24 hour period.

After the success of getting all the stations on air the general feeling is to do the same next year but to improve on the station setups and to enrol more operators to help out over the 24 hours.

IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day 2009

| Call Sign | QSOs | Points |
|--|------|---------|
| Open Section | | |
| ** EI9E/P, Network Southern Area R.E.C. | 664 | 453,615 |
| Restricted Section | | |
| 2 Metres | | |
| ** EI7T/P, Tipperary Amateur Radio Group | 28 | 15,614 |
| 1.2GHz | | |
| ** EI7DAR/P, Dundalk Amateur Radio Society | 1 | 175 |
| ** = Award Winner | | |

IRTS SSB Field Day 2009

| Call Sign | QSOs | Mults | Points |
|---------------------------------|------|-------|---------|
| Open Section | | | |
| ** 1 EI7T/P, Tipperary A.R.G. | 144 | 42 | 21,504 |
| Restricted Section | | | |
| ** 1 EI3Z/P, Shannon Basin R.C. | 588 | 98 | 224,714 |
| 2 EI4LRC/P, Limerick R.C. | 358 | 59 | 85,550 |
| 3 EI2KA/P, Tim/Andy | 148 | 42 | 23,184 |
| 4 EI7MRE/P, Mayo R.E.N. | 138 | 39 | 22,113 |
| ** = Award Winner | | | |

IRTS CW Field Day 2009

| Call Sign | QSOs | Mults | Points | Score |
|----------------------------------|------|-------|--------|---------|
| Open Section | | | | |
| ** 1 EI9HQ/P, Declan Lennon | 48 | 24 | 161 | 3,864 |
| Restricted Section | | | | |
| ** 1 EI2SDR/P, South Dublin R.C. | 656 | 130 | 2,123 | 275,990 |
| 2 EI3Z/P, Shannon Basin R.C. | 750 | 94 | 2,233 | 209,902 |
| ** = Award Winner | | | | |

EI2SDR/P - Ops: EI4HH, EI5DI, EI7HT, DF4TD

EI3Z/P - Ops: EI2EO, EI4CF, EI8IU, EI6IB, EI4AL, EI5EAB

We have good stations on 10, 15 and 20m but could do with more. We definitely need better stations on 40, 80 and 160m both CW and SSB. If you have a good setup on any of the lower bands please consider getting involved for next year. You do not have to have a big station to help out, if interested in using the EI0HQ call sign next year we can put you on a team in your area to do a few hours on

air. We have good operators and some good stations so come and help us put EI on the contest map.

Contact any of the IRTS Committee or direct to Thos EI2JD by email: contestmanager@irts.ie

See page 14 for details of EI9E's outstanding results in the RSGB Field Day.



Foyle & District ARC Annual Rally



Sunday 1st November 2009
The Best Western White Horse Hotel
68 Clooney Road,
Derry, BT47 3PA
Doors open 1200

Traders Attending;

TA Electronics
P&D CB & Amateur Radio Supplies
JBT Trading
MI3NIE Wire Antennas
Long Communications
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Rapid Response Computers
RSGB QSL Bureau & Book Stall
West Tyrone Repeater Group
Donegal Internet Repeater Group
Donegal Mountain Rescue Team
Bring & Buy

First showing in GI of the ICOM IC7600

Mayo Radio Experimenters Network Annual Rally

Sunday November 22nd 2009
The Welcome Inn, Castlebar
Doors open 1100

Bookings are now being taken for stands at the Rally by Rally Director, Padraic Baynes, EI9JA He can be contacted on 087 6957154.

The hotel are offering very special deals for accommodation and meals. Offers include:

One night B&B plus one Evening Special @ €50 Per Person Sharing,
Two Nights B&B + one Evening Meal and a Bottle of Wine @ €99 Per Person Sharing and Two For The Price of One: Two Nights B&B and get a Third Night Free @ €99 Per Person Sharing.

For booking and any further information please contact Heather or Martha at the Welcome Inn Hotel, on 094-9022288.

Email: welcomenn@eircom.net

web: www.welcomeinnhotel.com

Crossakiel Amateur Radio Association Field Day

On Sunday 16th August "Crossakiel Amateur Radio Association" (C.A.R.A.) held it's first club event on the village green Crossakiel.

Activity was on 80, 40, 20 and the 2 metre bands using two thirty foot masts with a Watson 2m/70cm and full size G5RV on one and a double size G5RV on the other.

Radio's used were an Yaesu FT7800, Yaesu 857d, Yaesu 897d and a Kenwood 870. Operators on the day were Gary EI3GIB, Alan EI5GFB, Dave EI7GEB, Steven EI4GKB, John EI6GHB & Charlie EI8JB and swl's Daniel and John.

Both weather and propagation on the day were poor but despite this a good day was had by all.

The shack on the day was a caravan and food was provided on a barbecue (for the brave and hungry).

C.A.R.A. would like to thank all the stations that called in on the day for their contacts and good wishes.

We look forward to future events and QSO's.



The Daily DX - is a text DX bulletin that can be sent via e-mail to your home or office Monday through Friday and includes DX news, IOTA news, QSN reports, QSL information, a DX Calendar, propagation forecast and much, much more. With a subscription to The Daily DX you will also receive DX news flashes and other interesting DX tidbits.

Subscriptions are \$49.00 for one year or \$28.00 for 6 months.



The Weekly DX - is a product of The Daily DX that can be sent weekly to your home or office via e-mail in the form of a PDF (portable document format). It includes DX news, IOTA news, QSN reports, QSL information, a DX Calendar, propagation forecast and graphics.

Subscriptions are \$27.00 for one year.

Get a free two weeks of The Daily DX or a free sample of The Weekly DX by sending a request to bernie@dailydx.com.

Members Advertisements

For Sale:

Eagle 6m6dx 6 element 6m Yagi with a 6m boom made by Vine Antennas in the UK. Looking around €150.00.

11el Tonna 2m Yagi. Boom is about 4.5m long. Only been used for 3 months and in good condition. Works very well. Price €75.00.

Cushcraft X7 7 element tribander in ok/good condition. Looking for €500 o.n.o. Free delivery anywhere in Ireland.

Trevor EI2GLB
ei2glb@hotmail.com
087-2217829

For Sale:

Icom 756 PRO (Mark 1) €50.00
Icom SP21 Matching Speaker €50.00
Icom PS125 Matching PSU €150.00
All items are perfect, boxed and include manuals.
Contact: Batt on 053-9247707
or 087-6614249

For Sale:

Icom 706 MK II Transceiver with hand microphone: €120.00
MFI Deluxe Versa Tuner II Model MFJ-949E €110.00
Zurich Electric Regulated DC P.S.U - DPS2512M €120.00
All with Manuals and leads.
The lot €600.00 or will sell separately
Contact Seán EI4GK at 01-2821420

For Sale:

Yaesu VX 246 UHF handhelds (15 units), mil spec, 446MHz 16 channel. All brand new boxed, 500mw, c/w docking chargers/ear ptt mics, suit security/business/ or private use, bike to bike etc, bought for security. Will sell in pairs or preferably in one lot, all boxed and unopened.
Also Acumen rider to rider intercom set 8ch 3km range (16 sub ch) including helmet earpieces/ptt leads etc in excellent condition @ €100.00.
Phone 059-9140086 or 085-7640044

For Sale:

Icom IC 2100 - 2 Metre Mobile. Power 5W, 10W and 55W. In mint condition with mobile mount & two fused power leads. Manual & original box.
Price €120.00, Postage extra.
Tom EI2AJ. Phone. 01-8211043.

Irish Radio Transmitters Society Annual Dinner & General Meeting Weekend 2010

Hosted by
Dundalk Amateur Radio Society

April 24/25th 2010

**Fairways Hotel and Leisure Complex
Dublin Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth.**

Room Bookings:-

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Email:- info@fairways.ie Att. Lynn

Fax:- 042-9323698 Att. Lynn

www.fairways.ie

**Annual Dinner Saturday Evening
Annual General Meeting Sunday 1430
Rally opening at 1030 Sunday**

**Booking for traders tables & dinner tickets:
Thos EI2JD: chairman@ei7dar.com or 087-2953256
Peter EI4HX: secretary@ei7dar.com**

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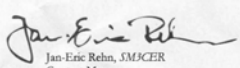
This certificate has been awarded to

EIØW
Ops. EI2JD, EI2JK

in recognition of the
1st place in Ireland (17th in Europe - 19th WW)
in the CW Multi Op./Single TX Class of the 50th SAC 2008
with a score of 5.355 points

Date 2009-03-31

 Hans Jónsson, SMØIMJ
President SSA


Jan-Eric Rehn, SM3CER
Contest Manager

Contest Calendar

All Times UTC

October 2009

| | | | |
|-------|---------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| 3-4 | Sat 0800 - Sun 0800 | Oceania DX Contest | Phone |
| 3 | Sat 1600 - 1959 | EU Sprint Autumn | SSB |
| 4 | Sun 0700 - 1900 | RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest | CW/SSB |
| 10-11 | Sat 0000 - Sun 2359 | ARRL EME Contest | All |
| 10-11 | Sat 0800 - Sun 0800 | Oceania DX Contest | CW |
| 10 | Sat 1600 - 1959 | EU Sprint Autumn | CW |
| 17-18 | Sat 1500 - Sun 1459 | Worked All Germany Contest | CW/SSB |
| 17-18 | Sat 1600 - Sun 2359 | W/VE Islands QSO Party | All |
| 24-25 | Sat 0000 - Sun 2400 | CQ WW DX Contest | SSB |

November 2009

| | | | |
|-------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------|
| 7 | Sat 0600 - 1000 | IPA Radio Club Contest (1) | CW |
| 7 | Sat 1400 - 1800 | IPA Radio Club Contest (2) | CW |
| 7-8 | Sat 1200 - Sun 1200 | Ukrainian DX Contest | CW/SSB |
| 8 | Sun 0600 - 1000 | IPA Radio Club Contest (3) | SSB |
| 8 | Sun 1400 - 1800 | IPA Radio Club Contest (4) | SSB |
| 8 | Sun 1100 - 1700 | DARC 10 m Digital Contest "Corona" | Digi |
| 14-15 | Sat 0700 - Sun 1300 | Japan International DX Contest | Phone |
| 14-15 | Sat 1200 - Sun 1200 | OK/OM DX Contest | CW |
| 21-22 | Sat 2100 - Sun 0100 | RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest | CW |
| 21-22 | Sat 1200 - Sun 1200 | LZ DX Contest | CW/SSB |
| 28-29 | Sat 0000 - Sun 2400 | CQ WW DX Contest | CW |

December 2009

| | | | |
|-------|---------------------|------------------------|----------|
| 4-6 | Fri 2200 - Sun 1600 | ARRL 160 Meter Contest | CW |
| 5-6 | Sat 0000 - Sun 2359 | ARRL EME Contest | All |
| 12-13 | Sat 0000 - Sun 2359 | ARRL 10 meter Contest | CW/Phone |

For details of smaller contests and links to contest rules and results try the following:

WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

SM3CER Contest Service <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/>



Hugh EI3IY & Jeremy EI5GM



Ger McNamara EI4GXB examining the German emergency communication vehicle at this year's Friedrichshafen HamFest.

Results: 80m Counties Contest, Summer 2009

By Contest Manager Thos EI2JD

| | | | Valid QSO's | Counties Wkd | Total Score | County |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------|
| (a) SSB only Fixed | | | | | | |
| *EI* | EI9HX | Pat O'Connor | 78 | 27 | 6541 | ROS |
| | EI2GLB | Trevor Dunne | 79 | 24 | 6144 | KLD |
| | EI7CD | Sean Nolan | 67 | 24 | 5496 | DUB |
| | EI8IQ | Pat Whitty | 62 | 24 | 5088 | WEX |
| | EI7CC | Peter Ball | 54 | 24 | 5040 | DUB |
| | EI9FVB | Declan Horan | 54 | 23 | 4623 | COR |
| | EI7JN | Tony Byrne | 66 | 21 | 4000 | DUB |
| | EI1DG | Patrick McGrath | 46 | 22 | 3718 | DUB |
| | EI3GYB | Michael Foertig | 38 | 21 | 3129 | MAY |
| | EI5GPB | Tim McKnight | 36 | 21 | 3024 | COR |
| | EI2CL | Michael McNamara | 32 | 17 | 2176 | DUB |
| | GI4AAM | Bill Langtry | 29 | 18 | 2088 | DOW |
| | EI4LRC | Limerick Radio Club | 27 | 16 | 1728 | LIM |
| | EI8JB | Charlie Carolan | 24 | 18 | 1728 | MEA |
| | EI9ES | Peter Morrison | 19 | 14 | 1064 | DUB |
| | EI5HS | Patrick Geoghegan | 13 | 11 | 572 | WIC |
| | EI7GJB | Aidan Murtagh | 28 | 7 | 196 | MAY |
| (b) SSB only Portable | | | | | | |
| *EI* | EI7MRE/P | Mayo Radio E. N. | 59 | 24 | 5832 | MAY |
| | EI9HQ/P | Declan Lennon | 75 | 23 | 5520 | CAR |
| | EI2V/P | Irish Air Corps A R C. | 56 | 23 | 4876 | DUB |
| | EI3ENB/P | Paul Norris | 34 | 20 | 2720 | KLK |
| | EI4GK/P | John Donelan | 30 | 20 | 2340 | DON |
| (c) SSB/CW Fixed | | | | | | |
| *EI* | EI4CF | Fr. Niall Foley | 65 | 23 | 5635 | GAL |
| (d) SSB/CW Portable | | | | | | |
| *EI* | EI7GY/P | Joe Ryan | 66 | 23 | 5658 | DUB |
| | EI7DAR/P | Dundalk ARS | 69 | 23 | 5451 | LOU |
| (e) SWL | | | | | | |
| *EI* | EI1588 | Shauna Baynes | 11 | 10 | 440 | MAY |
| Check Logs | | | | | | |
| EI1CS, EI3GRB, EI4DIB, GI4SRQ | | | | | | |

Thanks to all who submitted their logs for the 80m Contest and congratulations to the winners.

It was a great turnout with good conditions on a beautiful mid summer's day. The most active section again was (a) SSB only fixed with a clear winner in Pat EI9HX.

Pat had 78 QSO's with 27 counties worked followed closely by Trevor EI2GLB with 79 QSO's but only 24 counties worked.

There was nice competition in section (b) SSB only portable with EI7MRE/P beating EI9HQ/p.

The Mayo club with only 59 QSO's against Declan's 75 still came out on top. The extra county helped as an extra multiplier but the difference was in the points per QSO. Declan had an abundance of outside EI/GI's giving only 1 point where Mayo had none, giving all their QSO's a value of 4 points.

Congrats to Niall EI4CF as the lone entry in section (c) SSB/CW Fixed.

A very close battle ensued in section (d) SSB/CW Portable between Joe EI7GY/P and the Dundalk gang EI7DAR/P with Joe taking the honours this time. As in the SSB portable section, the points value per QSO played a big part. Congrats Joe !!!

Thanks to Shauna EI1588 for the SWL log.

Thanks also to those who sent in logs as check logs.

Please if you can send in your log even as a check log, it does help in the scoring and results.



EI9HX - SSB Winner



EI4CF - CW/SSB Winner



EI7GY - CW/SSB/P Winner



EI 1588 - SWL Winner

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Used Price List

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Kenwood TS480X - 200w - Good condx | £655.00 |
| Kenwood TS2000. Mint Boxed with Manual, | £1,100.00 |
| Yaesu FT-857 DSP - VG condx, boxed, manual etc .. | £445.00 |
| Yaesu FT-847 - Good condx with manual etc | £799.00 |
| Yaesu FT1000 MK5. Mint, 200w, Boxed with manual, power supply and power lead..... | £1,350.00 |
| Yaesu FT-817 - Mint, Boxed, as new..... | £310.00 |
| Yaesu GS065 New Mast Head Bearing..... | £49.50 |
| Icom IC-756 Pro II Mint, Box, manual mic/pwr lead.. | £999.00 |
| Icom IC7000 Boxed/Manuals etc. Only 3 months old. | £695.00 |
| Icom IC-706 MK1. Clean, Manual, power lead etc | £325.00 |
| Icom IC-706 MKII, Clean, Manual, Power lead etc. .. | £425.00 |
| Icom IC-706 MKIIG Clean, Manual, Power lead etc. .. | £525.00 |
| Watson 30A PSU New | £129.00 |
| Watson New Hunter Frequency Finder | £59.00 |
| Watson FC130 New Frequency Finder | £79.00 |

New Power Supplies.

Power-Mite - NF.

22 Amp continuous, Switch Mode Power Supply
 Variable Voltage Mini Size, noise offset.....

Power-Max-25 - NF.

22 Amp continuous Switch Mode, Variable Voltage
 Power Supply, Volt and Amp meters, Noise offset

Power-Max-45 - NF.

38 Amp continuous Switch Mode, Variable Voltage
 Power Supply, Volt and Amp meters, Noise offset

W-25AM Watson

25A Variable Voltage Power Supply plus
 Volt/Amp meters, 0 - 15V DC, Cigar Socket,
 Front Panel Fuse. Size 240 x 15 x 230mm

W-30AM Watson 30A

Variable Voltage Power Supply plus
 Volt/Amp meters, 35A Peak, Over current
 protected, 3 sets of terminals, Cigar Socket,
 Front panel fuse

GZV 2500 Diamond 25A

3-15V Variable Switch Mode Power Supply,
 25A continuous. Built-in cooling fan.
 Size 210 x 110 x 220mm, Weight 2.5kg

New Radio Stock

Current Price List

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Yaesu - FT-7800 | €189.00 |
| Yaesu - FT-8800 | €269.00 |
| Yaesu - FT-8900R..... | €299.00 |
| Yaesu - FT-817ND..... | €399.00 |
| Yaesu - FT-857D | €29.00 |
| Yaesu - FT-897 | €599.00 |
| Yaesu - MMB80 - Mounting Bracket for FT897..... | £15.94 |
| Yaesu - FT-450 | €29.00 |
| Yaesu - FT-950 | €899.00 |
| Yaesu - FT-2000 | €1,899.00 |
| Yaesu - MS100ASX - Desktop Microphone | £116.95 |
| Yaesu - MD200ASX - Ultra Hi-FI Desktop Mic..... | £192.95 |
| Yaesu - DMU-2000 - Data Management Unit..... | £799.00 |
| Icom - IC-E20S | €254.00 |
| Icom - IC-2725E | €319.00 |
| Icom - IC-706 MKIIG | €729.00 |
| Icom - IC-7000..... | €29.00 |
| Icom - IC-7400..... | €1,330.00 |
| Icom - SM-20 - Base Station Desk Microphone..... | £144.98 |
| Icom - SP-21 - Desktop Speaker for IC7400 | £74.99 |
| Kenwood TM-D710E..... | £399.00 |
| Kenwood TM-V71E..... | £259.00 |
| Kenwood TS-480SAT | £699.00 |
| Kenwood TS-480HX | £765.00 |
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| AOR 3000A 0-2036 MHz, 400 memories. All Mode | €499.00 |
| AOR 3030 Shortwave Receiver with VHF option fitted..... | €449.00 |
| AOR 7030 Award winning Rx. 0-30MHz Boxed/mint..... | €599.00 |
| AOR-8200 Mk2, 0-260-0 MHz. All mode handheld | €249.00 |
| AOT 7030+. Award winning Receiver. Boxed, Mint | €799.00 |
| Garmin Quest Handheld GPS. Ireland & Europe..... | €125.00 |
| Heil Classic Base Microphone. Top class mic. Boxed as new..... | €79.00 |
| ICE 92D True Dual Band Handheld with D star fitted including HM175 GPS speaker mic for above with GPS receiver built in. Icom CP 19R cigar cable. | |
| Total price new was €829.00 now only | €499.00 |
| Icom IC/PS15. 20A Power Supply | €99.00 |
| Icom ICR 8500 0-2000MHz. All mode Base Receiver | €1,199.00 |
| Icom AH-4, HF + 6m Auto ATU | €299.00 |
| Icom IC PCR 1500 PC Based comms Rx 0-3,300 MHz. As new | €79.00 |
| Icom PS-125 Matching PSU for IC-746 & PRO Series..... | €199.00 |
| Icom ICR-10 0-1300MHz All mode handheld scanner | €249.00 |
| Icom ICR-7100, 25-2000MHz Rx, 1,000 Mems, all mode..... | €699.00 |
| Icom ICR 72 Shortwave Receiver. 0-30MHz. Good Condition | €399.00 |
| Icom SP21. Notching speaker for IC7400/756/746 etc | €69.00 |
| Icom IC706 MK2. HF + 6m & 2m. Mobile | €649.00 |
| Icom SM20 Desk Mic. As new condition | €129.00 |
| Icom IC 706 MK2G with FM100 filter | €699.00 |
| Icom IC 718 - **Special Price** 100w HF Rig. New | €540.00 |
| Icom IC-7200 Latest HF/6m DSP rig from Icom As New..... | €749.00 |
| Icom IC-7400 HF/6 & 2m. One only | €1,399.00 |
| Icom IC-91E, 2m/70cm Handheld. D-Star fitted | €349.00 |
| Icom IC-821H 2m/70cm 45/35w base multi-mode, | €799.00 |
| JRC NRD 545 DSP Receiver. Professional Quality | €1,249.00 |
| Kenwood AT-50. Matching Auto Tuner for TS-50 | €249.00 |
| Kenwood TM455E 45w, 70cm multi-mode, | €249.00 |
| Kenwood TS-570DGE, HF rig with DSP AUTO ATU | €799.00 |
| Kenwood TS-790 2m/70cm/23cm. All mode base stn..... | €899.00 |
| Kenwood TS-850SAT, Auto ATU. Mint, Boxed..... | €799.00 |
| Kenwood TS-870SAT. HF Rig DSP + Auto ATU | €1,099.00 |
| Kenwood/Trio TS711E. 2m/25w base multimode..... | €349.00 |
| Linear Amp UK. 700w 70cm Amp. Bargain | €899.00 |
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| MFJ 934 Antenna Tuner/artificial ground..... | €99.00 |
| MFJ 925 Mighty Mite compact auto ATU. IC706 size. New | €225.00 |
| Nevada TM 1000, Professional series HF ATU Hi-Power | €299.00 |
| Realistic DX394. 0-30 MHz all mode Shortwave Receiver..... | €199.00 |
| Rigblaster Plus multi mode data decoder | €149.00 |
| Sony ICF-SW7600G, Portable SW Rx with FM..... | €129.00 |
| Uniden UBC 780 XLT Base/Mobile 500 Channel Scanner | |
| 25-1300MHz Trunk Tracker | €269.00 |
| Uniden UBC 785XLT Base/Mobile 1000ch scanner 25-1300MHz | €269.00 |
| Watson 22 Amp 0-15v PSU. Special offer - New! | €89.00 |



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